

THOMPSON | TINTO | MILLA

DEVIL'S REIGN

SUPERIOR FOUR



MARVEL

DEVIL'S
REIGN

SUPERIOR FOUR



No outlaw has evaded justice more than **WILSON FISK**, formerly the **KINGPIN** of a vast criminal empire that touched every corner of New York City (and beyond). Now the duly elected mayor of New York, Fisk has failed to wash his hands of his old life – and the bloodshed it bore. After marrying **TYPHOID MARY** and retreating to upstate New York for their honeymoon, Fisk has discovered a secret that has made his blood boil and set his ire upon the city and every costumed vigilante in it.

With half of the **FANTASTIC FOUR** imprisoned and the other half on the run, Fisk has given over their headquarters to **OTTO OCTAVIUS**, the genius super villain **DOCTOR OCTOPUS**. Ock then employed a multiversal conduit to summon versions of himself from other universes, forming an unstoppable cadre of Ottos, A.K.A. the...

...**SUPERIOR FOUR**

DEVIL'S REIGN

SUPERIOR FOUR

DEVIL'S REIGN: SUPERIOR FOUR #1-3

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614

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SHAWN '21

MOST MEN ARE INFERIOR CREATURES. DESPITE THE AGENCY TO REFLECT, THEIR VESTIGIAL MINDS LACK IMAGINATION.

THREATENED BY THEIR OWN INSIGNIFICANCE, ALL THEY SEE, ALL THEY UNDERSTAND IS...

OTTO, WHAT DID I TELL YOU ABOUT STARING AT THE SKY AND DREAMING?!



...CAUSE AND EFFECT. TIME MOVES EVER FORWARD TO ONE POSSIBLE FUTURE.

FACED WITH THIS PATHETIC SIMPLIFICATION, *MOST* TURN INTO BRUTES. INDULGING THEIR BASER INSTINCTS.

SERVES YOU RIGHT, YOU LITTLE MONSTER.



SUCH PRIMATES COULDN'T POSSIBLY IMAGINE *OTHER* WORLDS.

THEIR MINDS WOULD RUPTURE TRYING TO FATHOM THE MULTIVERSE.

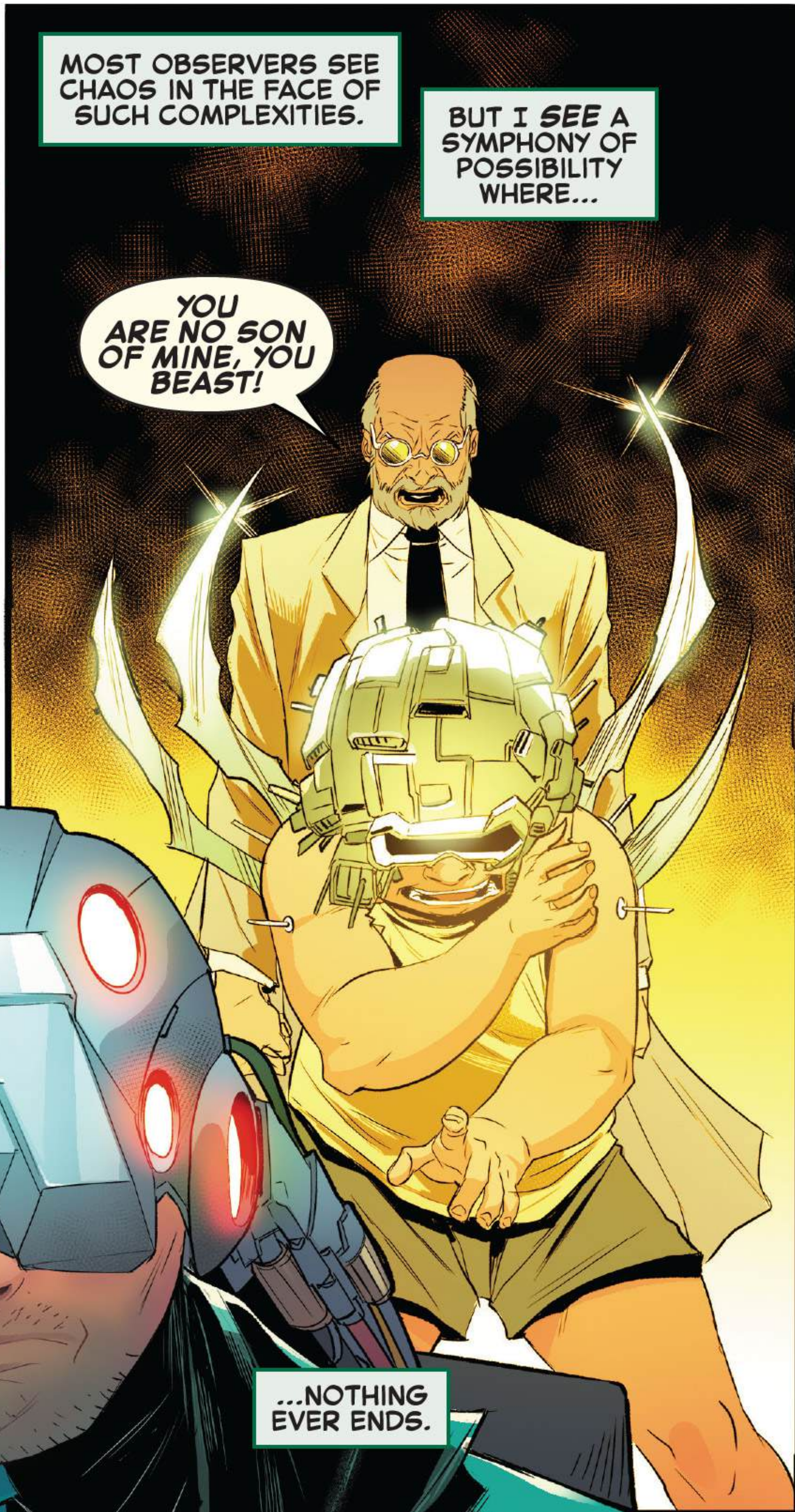
THROUGH THE HOOP! NOW!



MOST OBSERVERS SEE CHAOS IN THE FACE OF SUCH COMPLEXITIES.

BUT I *SEE* A SYMPHONY OF POSSIBILITY WHERE...

YOU ARE NO SON OF MINE, YOU BEAST!



...NOTHING EVER ENDS.

THE BAXTER BUILDING.
HOME AND HEADQUARTERS
OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

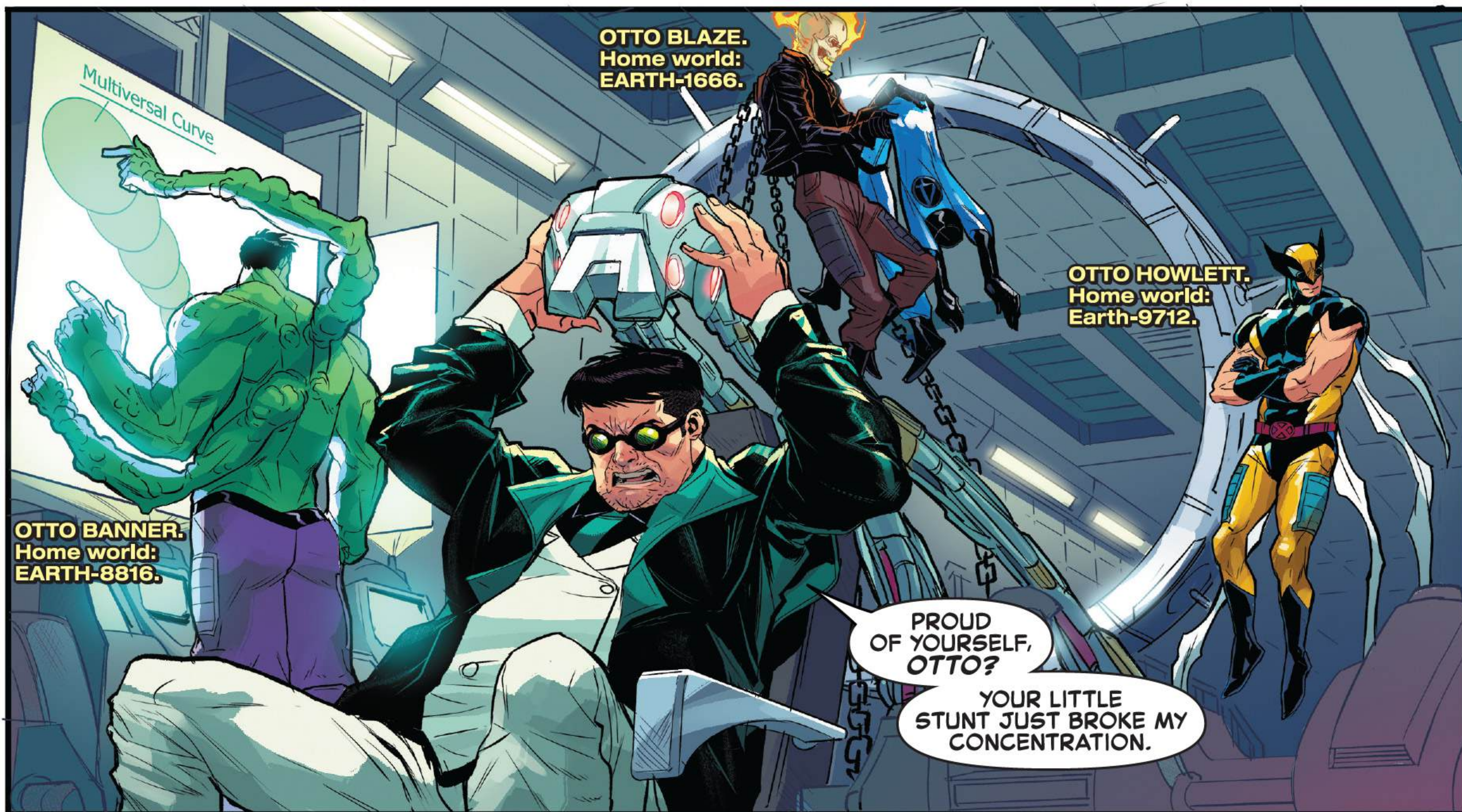
YES. I, DOCTOR
OCTOPUS, AM TRULY
SUPERIOR. I SEE
BEYOND THE FINITE
AND EMBRACE THE
CEASELESS LOOP.

I HAVE ABANDONED
LINEAR PROCESSING
AND EVOLVED MY MIND
TO THINK IN *FOUR*
DIMENSIONS.

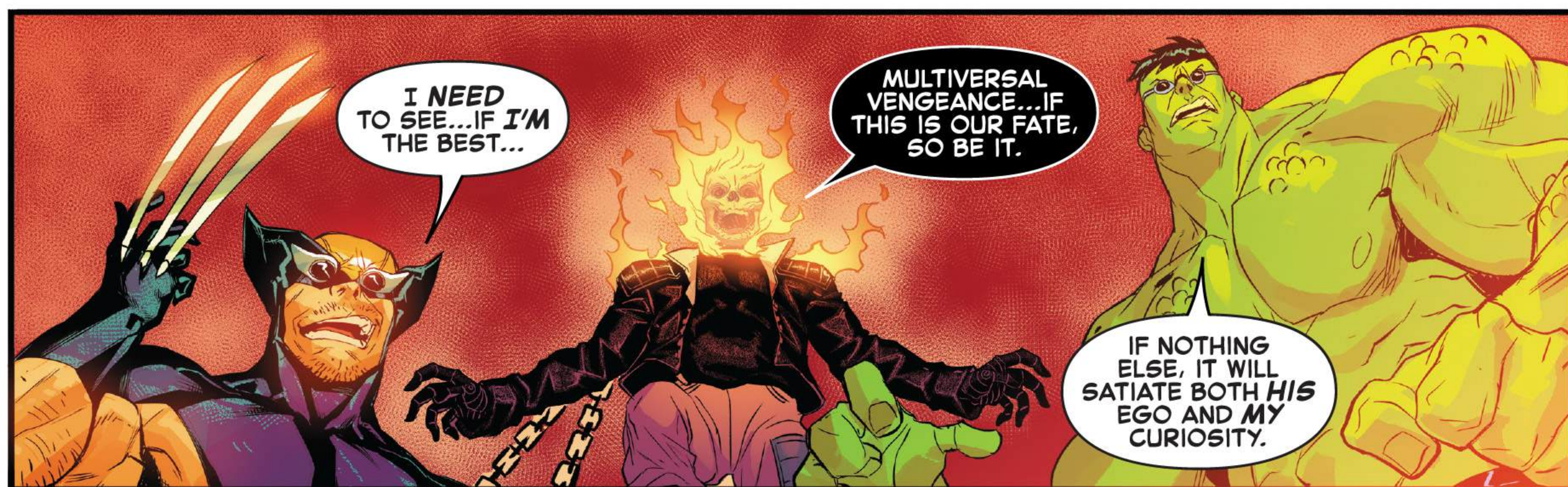
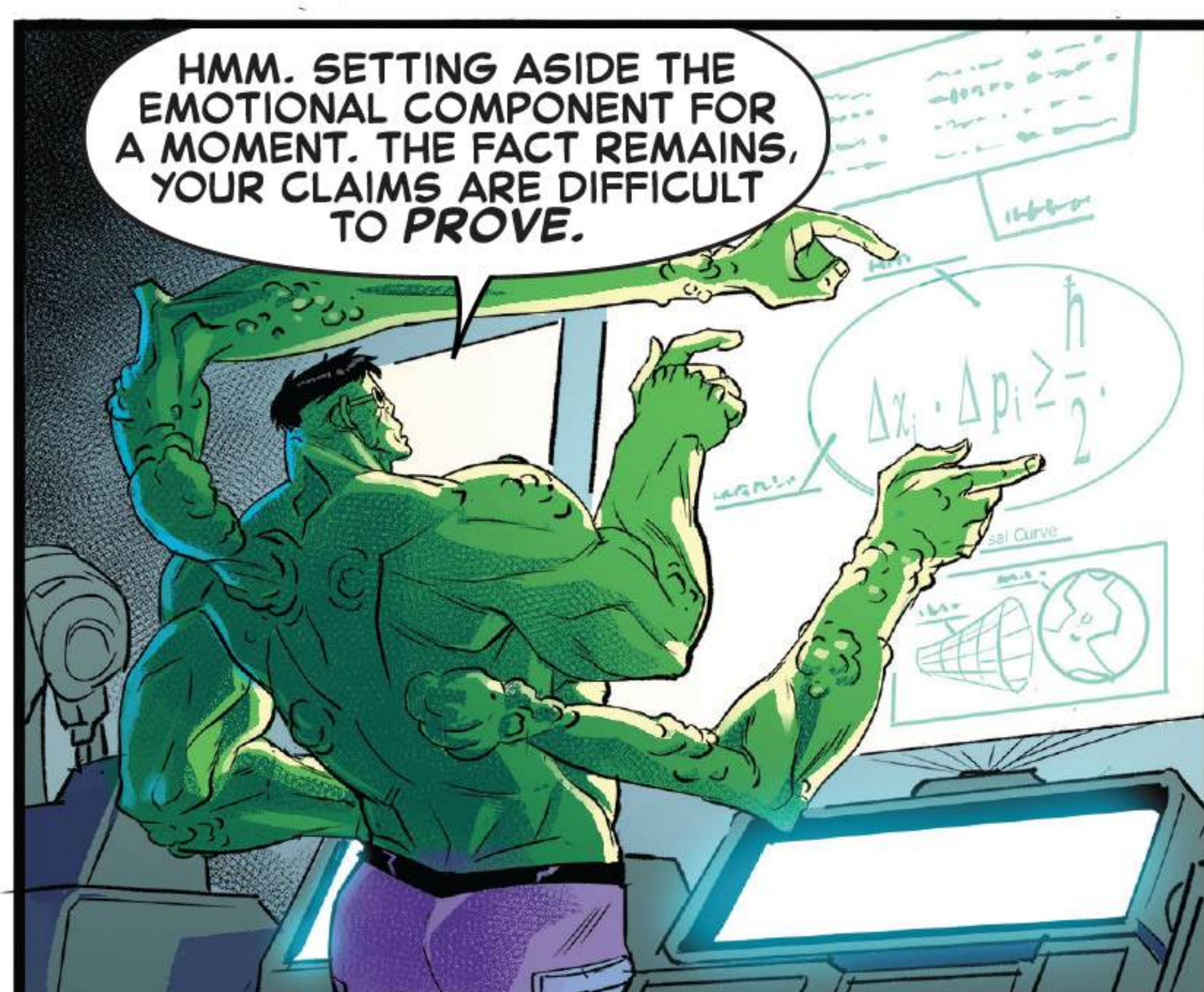
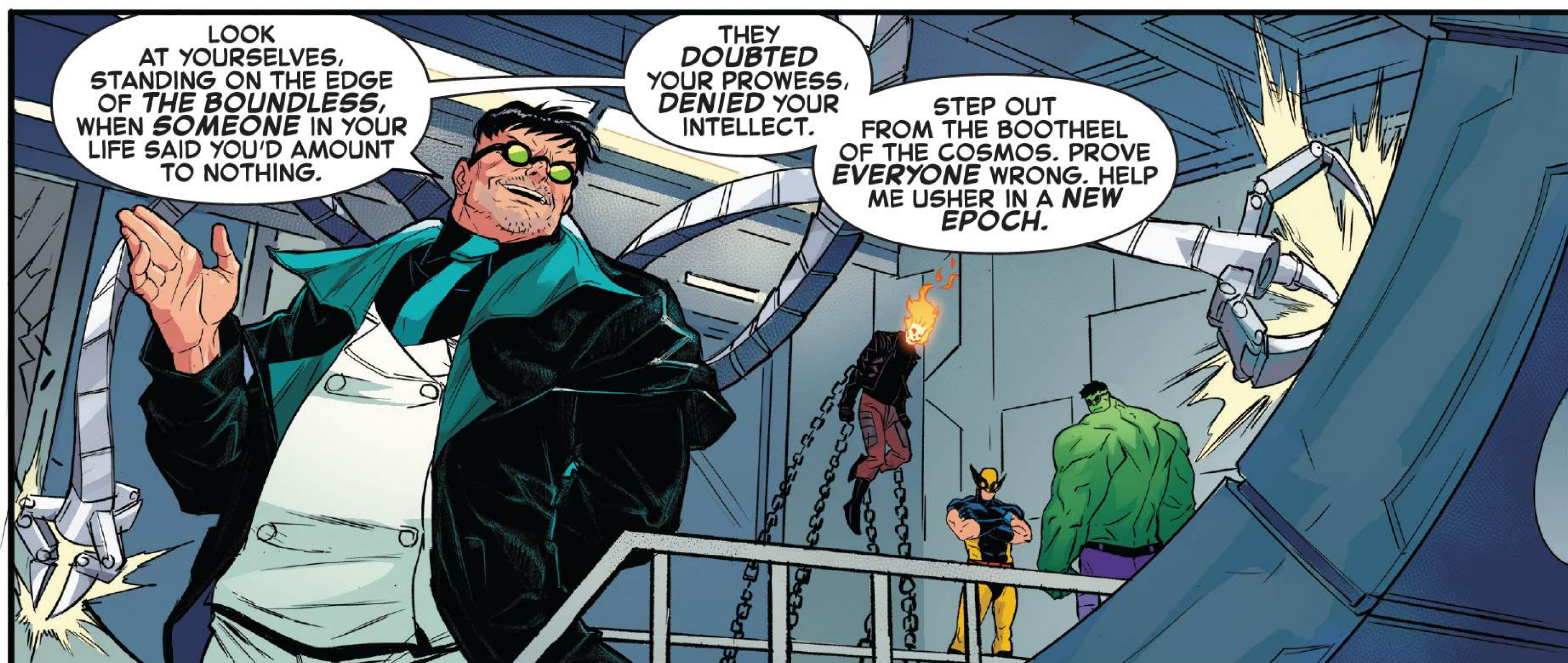
SINCE MAYOR FISK UNEARTHED
EVERYONE'S SECRETS, THE
FANTASTIC FOUR ARE GONE AND
MY TENURE IN THE BAXTER BUILDING
BEGINS. I'VE SUMMONED *THREE*
OTTO OCTAVIUS VARIANTS FROM
ACROSS THE MULTIVERSE TO--

KRISH









THE GUTTED GULCH.
EARTH-5069.

SPREAD OUT.
WE **NEED** A WAY TO
TRACE OUR DNA STRAND
IN THIS UNIVERSE.
ANY TETHER WILL
DO.

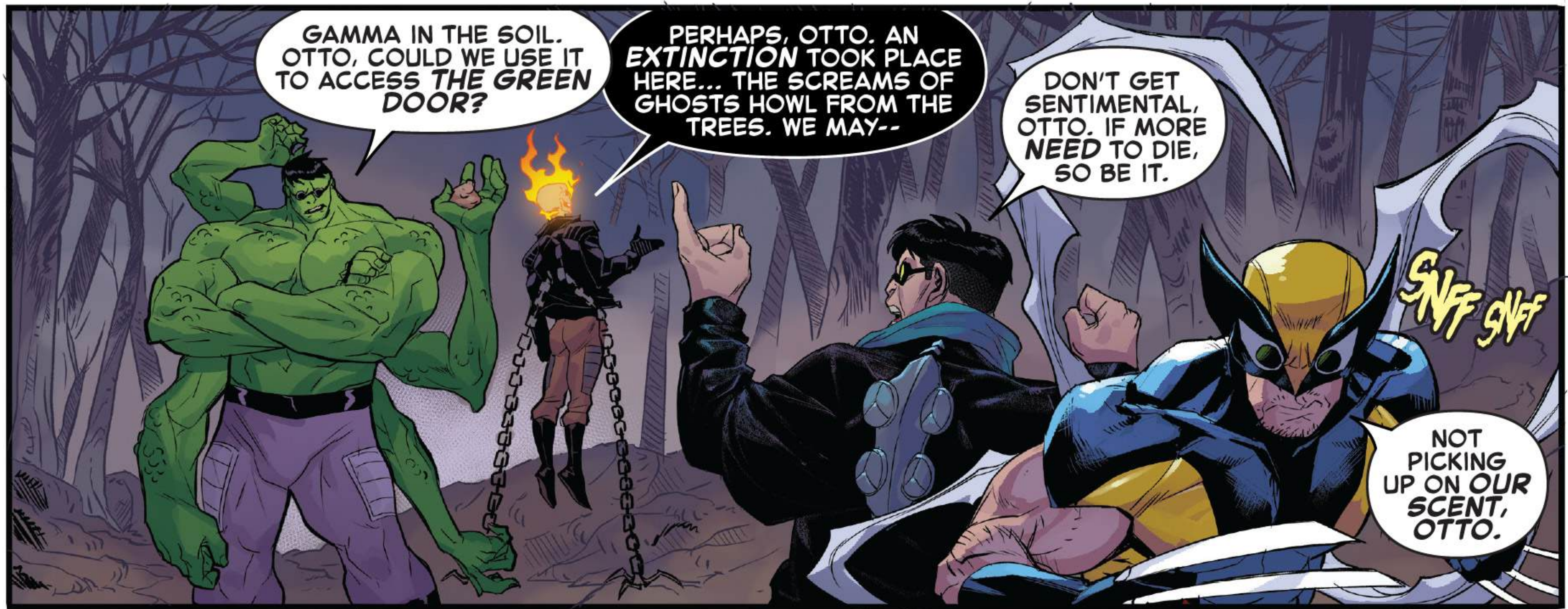


GAMMA IN THE SOIL.
OTTO, COULD WE USE IT
TO ACCESS **THE GREEN
DOOR?**

PERHAPS, OTTO. AN
EXTINCTION TOOK PLACE
HERE... THE SCREAMS OF
GHOSTS HOWL FROM THE
TREES. WE MAY--

DON'T GET
SENTIMENTAL,
OTTO. IF MORE
NEED TO DIE,
SO BE IT.

NOT
PICKING
UP ON OUR
SCENT,
OTTO.



HOWLETT,
LEND ME YOUR
ADAMANTIUM
PINCER.

WE'LL USE THE
MICROCULTURES COMMON
IN **OUR** BLOODSTREAMS
TO CREATE A TRACEABLE
SIGNATURE.



NOW
TAKE A SOIL
READING--



AN
IMMORAL SOUL
TAKES UMBRAGE WITH
OUR TRESPASS
HERE...





HEY, BOYS!

GONNA NEED Y'ALL TO GET BACK IN THE BOOGER PORTAL AND LEAVE MY UNIVERSE.



AND YOU ARE?

UGH.

I'M THE IRON SCAB!



WHO THE @##% ARE YOU?



YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?

WHAT ABOUT MY ARMS?

OR MY GREEN SKIN?

GUESSIN' YOU'RE GHOST RIDER, WOLVERINE AND THE HULK.

GOTTA ADMIT, THE SIX-ARMS THING IS NEW! I HATE IT.



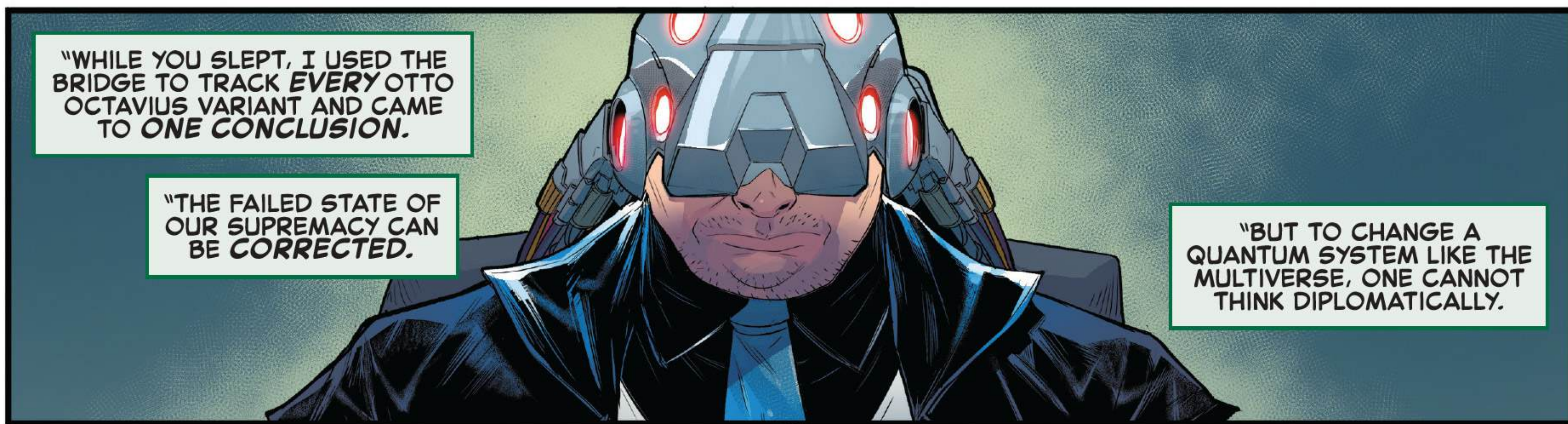
AND WHAT OF ME?!

SAY MY NAME!

I...DON'T...KNOW...YOUR...NAME.



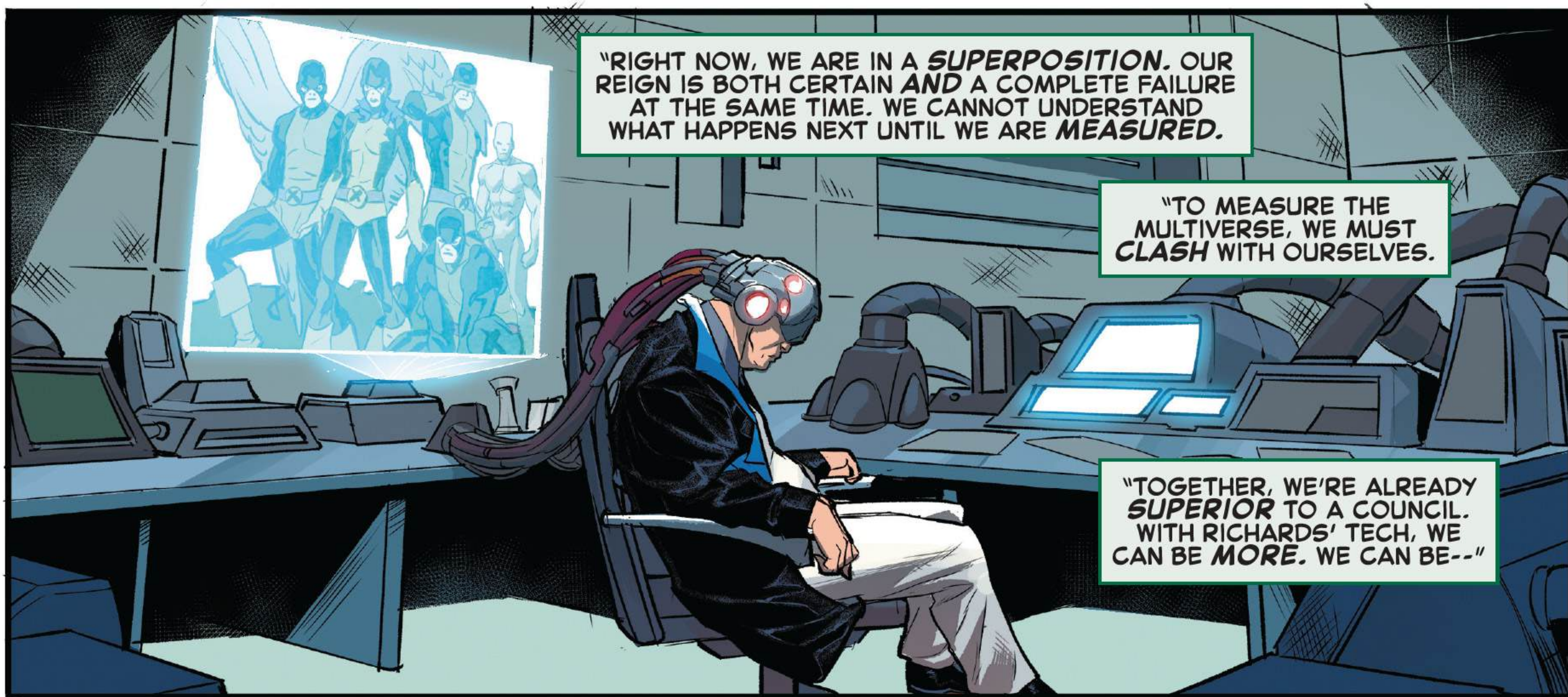




"WHILE YOU SLEPT, I USED THE BRIDGE TO TRACK **EVERY** OTTO OCTAVIUS VARIANT AND CAME TO **ONE CONCLUSION**.

"THE FAILED STATE OF OUR SUPREMACY CAN BE **CORRECTED**.

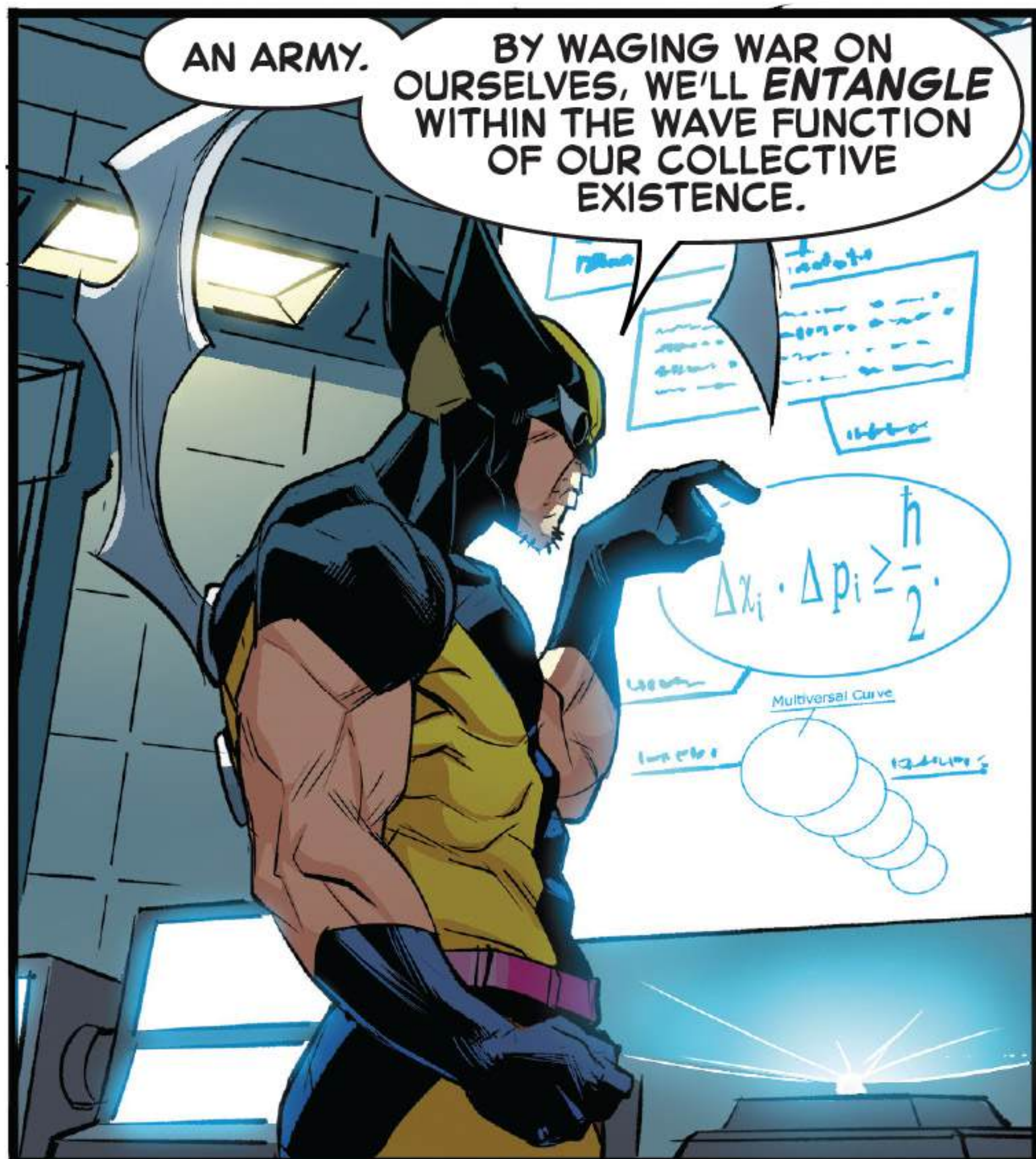
"BUT TO CHANGE A QUANTUM SYSTEM LIKE THE MULTIVERSE, ONE CANNOT THINK DIPLOMATICALLY.



"RIGHT NOW, WE ARE IN A **SUPERPOSITION**. OUR REIGN IS BOTH CERTAIN AND A COMPLETE FAILURE AT THE SAME TIME. WE CANNOT UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT UNTIL WE ARE **MEASURED**.

"TO MEASURE THE MULTIVERSE, WE MUST **CLASH** WITH OURSELVES.

"TOGETHER, WE'RE ALREADY **SUPERIOR** TO A COUNCIL. WITH RICHARDS' TECH, WE CAN BE **MORE**. WE CAN BE--"



AN ARMY.

BY WAGING WAR ON OURSELVES, WE'LL **ENTANGLE** WITHIN THE WAVE FUNCTION OF OUR COLLECTIVE EXISTENCE.



AND DUE TO THE CONSERVATION OF MOMENTUM, WITH ONE STRIKE, OUR FATES WILL BE ENTWINED WITH EVERY **OTTO** VARIANT IN THE MULTIVERSE.

THIS IS SOME REAL **HIGHLANDER** ##\$#&.

THIS WILL SEND A **DESTRUCTIVE WAVE** THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE. WHERE WE, BY DEFINITION, DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.



SO WE COMMIT AN ACT OF COSMIC TRANSGRESSION... BUT THE IMPLICATIONS WOULD BE VAST.

BE IT A PERSON, TREE, OR ANIMAL. ALL LIFE GOES SOMEWHERE WHEN IT DIES. THE MULTIVERSE **BRANCHES**.



YES, PRECISELY.

IT'S *RISKY*, BUT EVEN ONE *FATALITY* COULD POTENTIALLY CREATE DOZENS OF *NEW* OCK VARIANTS.



OR IT WOULD SIMPLY CONSOLIDATE *OUR* POWER.

EITHER WAY, WE GAIN INSIGHT INTO OUR MULTIVERSAL EXISTENCE.



AND OUR *SUPERIORITY* GROWS.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?



"MY MATH IS SOUND. I SPENT HOURS PILOTING THE BRIDGE. THERE ARE 3,409 VARIANTS OF OTTO OCTAVIUS..."

"AND THERE IS ONLY ONE OTTO OUT OF ALL REALITIES THAT KNOWS THE KIND OF POWER NEEDED TO DEFEAT US."



HEY, WAIT, UH...WHAT IF THEY-- I MEAN *WE*--BEAT US?

THEY WON'T.

WE ARE THE *SUPERIOR* FOUR. WE HAVE NO EQUAL.

WHO COULD POSSIBLY DEFEAT OUR COMBINED INTELLECT?



THEN IT'S SETTLED!
LET THIS MOMENT CARVE TWO
VAST AND TRUNKLESS LEGS IN
THE MORASS BENEATH TIME
IMMEMORIAL.

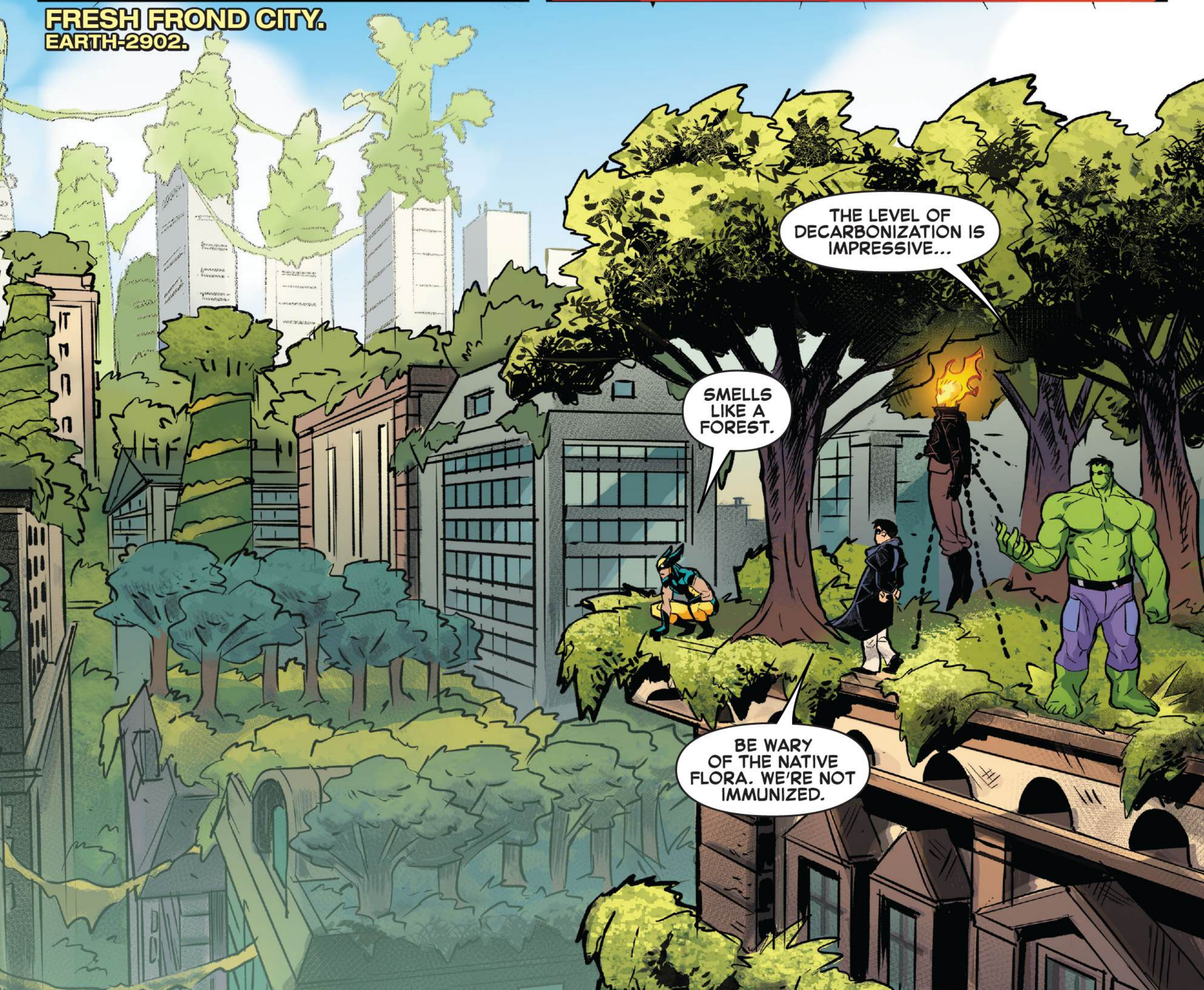
THIS IS THE
BEGINNING OF OUR
EVOLUTION.



SO, WHO'S THIS
ALL-POWERFUL...
ME ON THE OTHER
SIDE?

YOU'LL SEE. HE
IS *THE* ROOT OF
MY HUMILIATION.

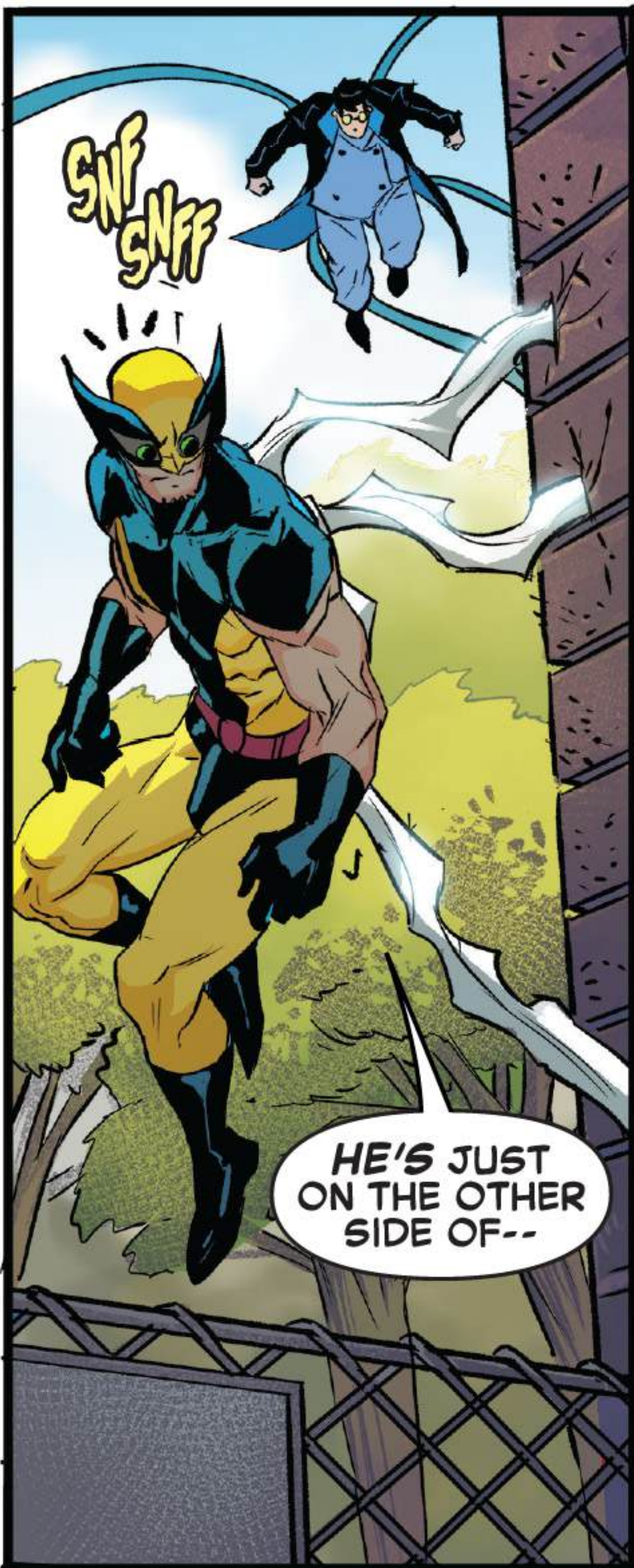
**FRESH FROND CITY.
EARTH-2902.**

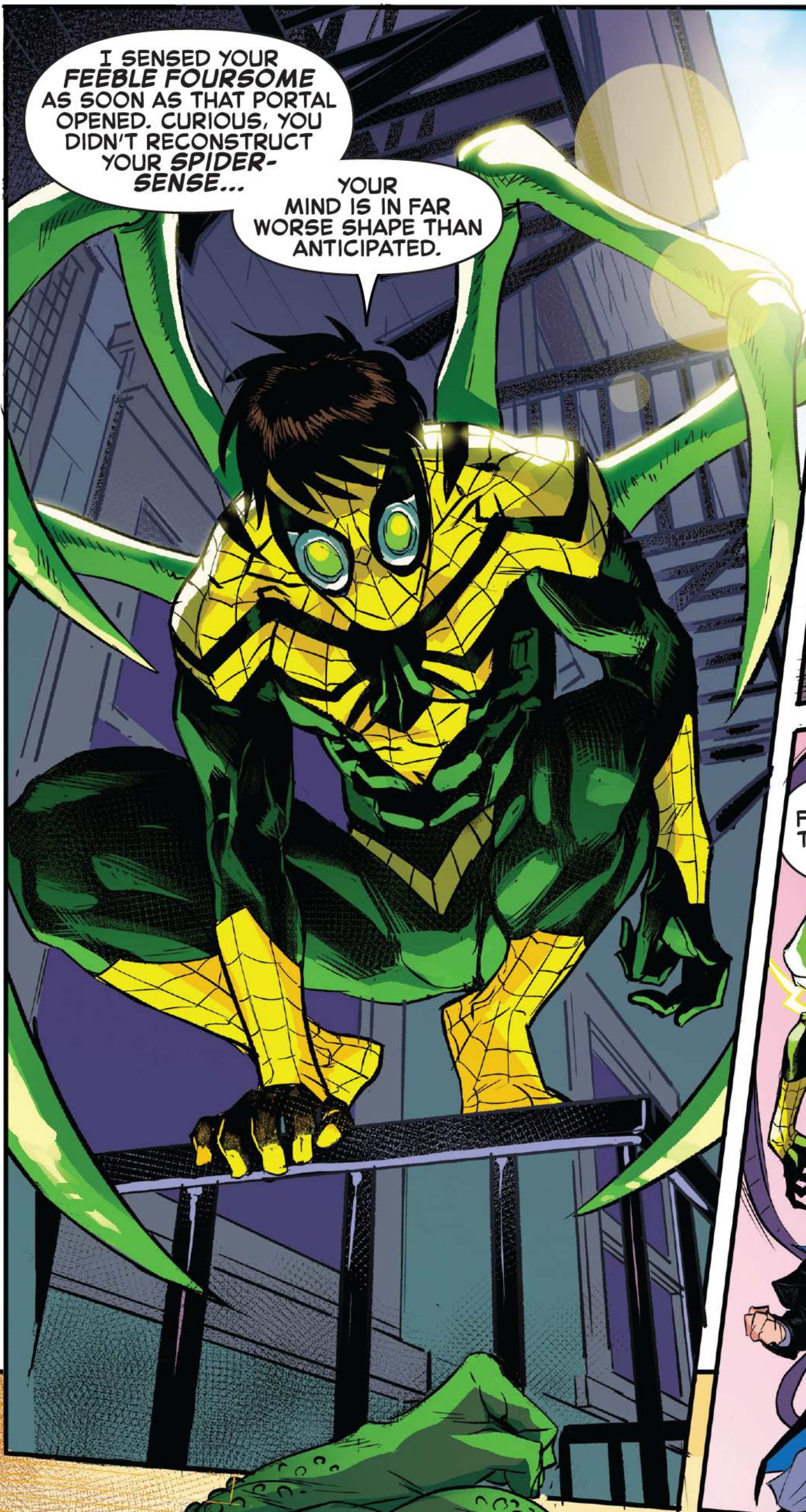


THE LEVEL OF
DECARBONIZATION IS
IMPRESSIVE...

SMELLS
LIKE A
FOREST.

BE WARY
OF THE NATIVE
FLORA. WE'RE NOT
IMMUNIZED.





I SENSED YOUR **FEEBLE FOURSOME** AS SOON AS THAT PORTAL OPENED. CURIOUS, YOU DIDN'T RECONSTRUCT YOUR **SPIDER-SENSE...**

YOUR MIND IS IN FAR WORSE SHAPE THAN ANTICIPATED.



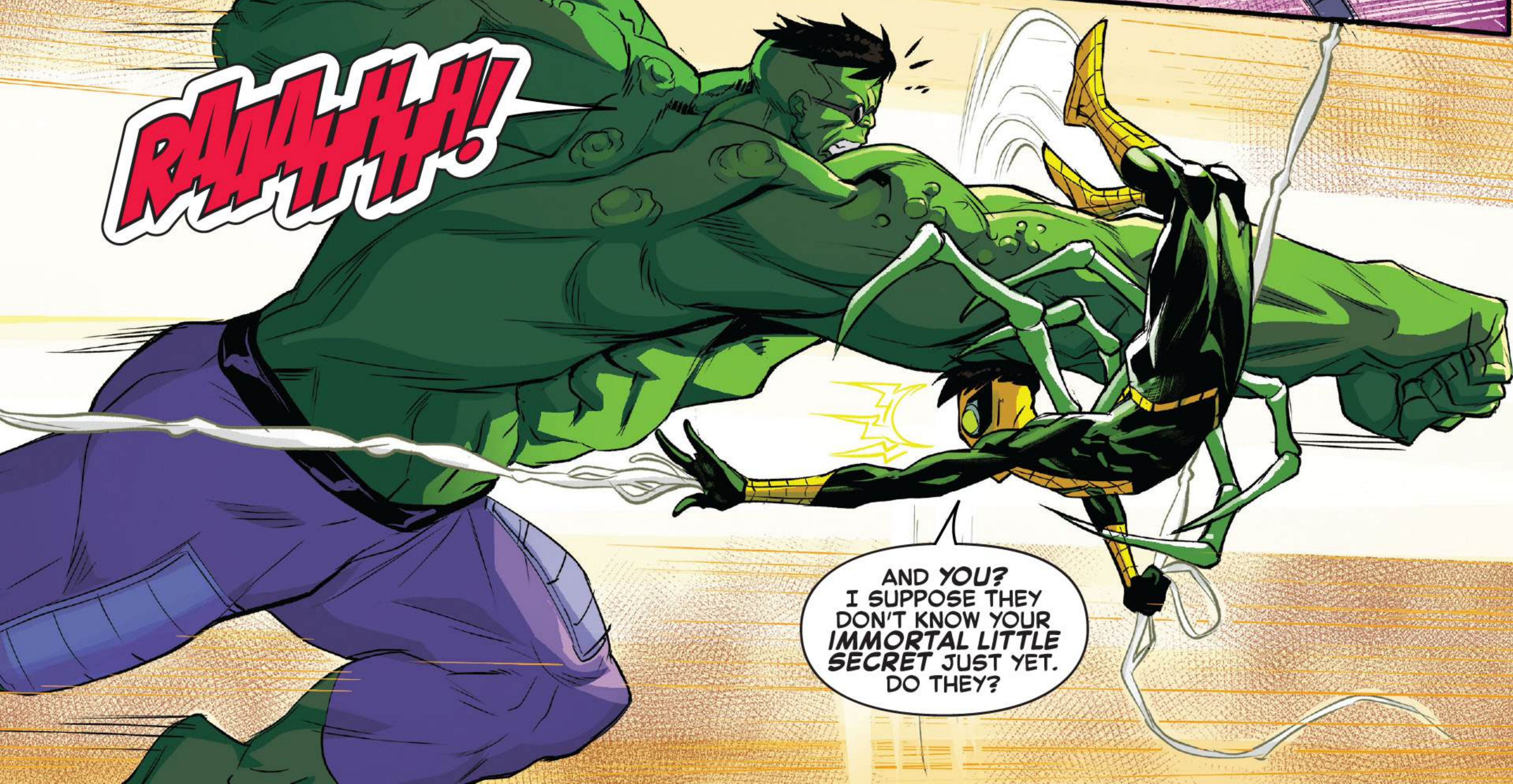
LOOK, OTTO--

I HAVE A TITLE!

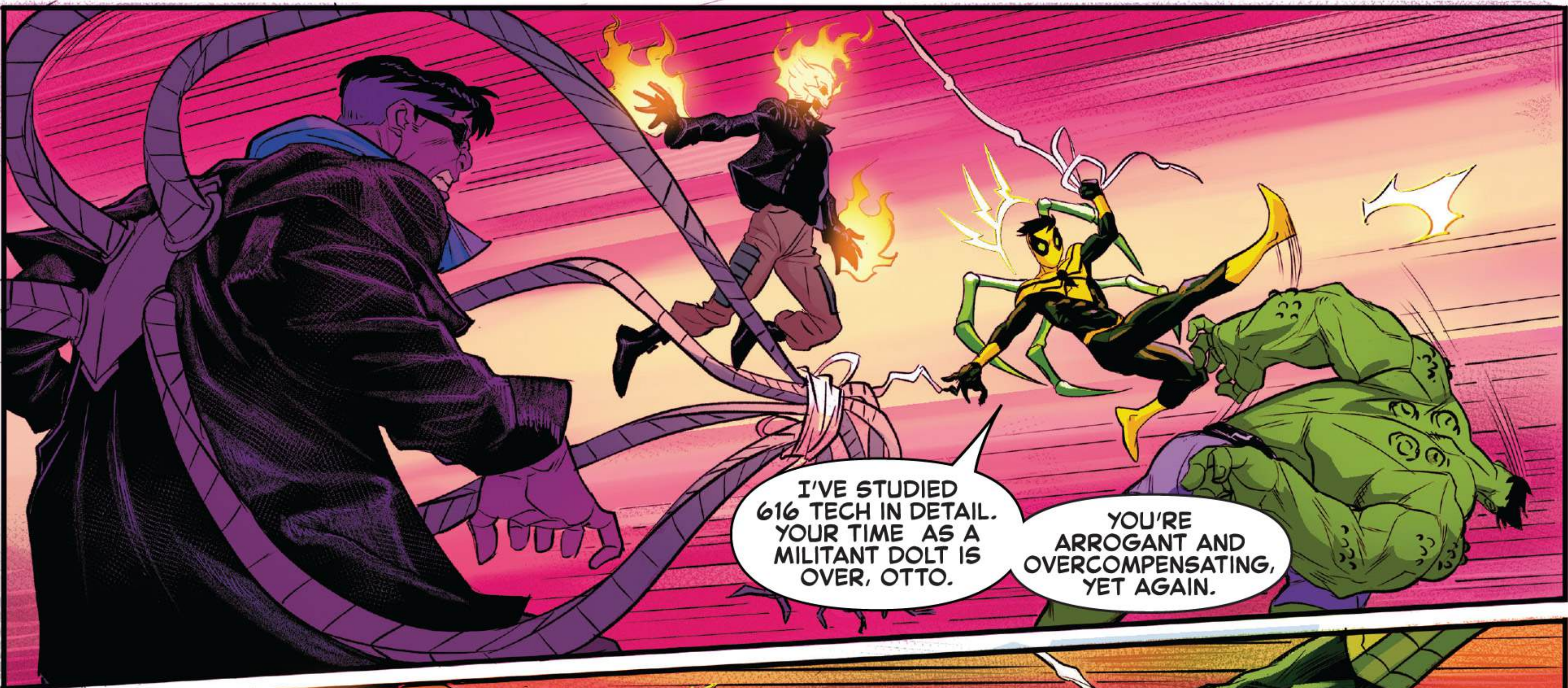
I KNOW, **DR. OCTOPUS**. I KNOW EVERYTHING YOU KNOW. I'VE KINDA SEEN YOU COMING FOR YEARS...

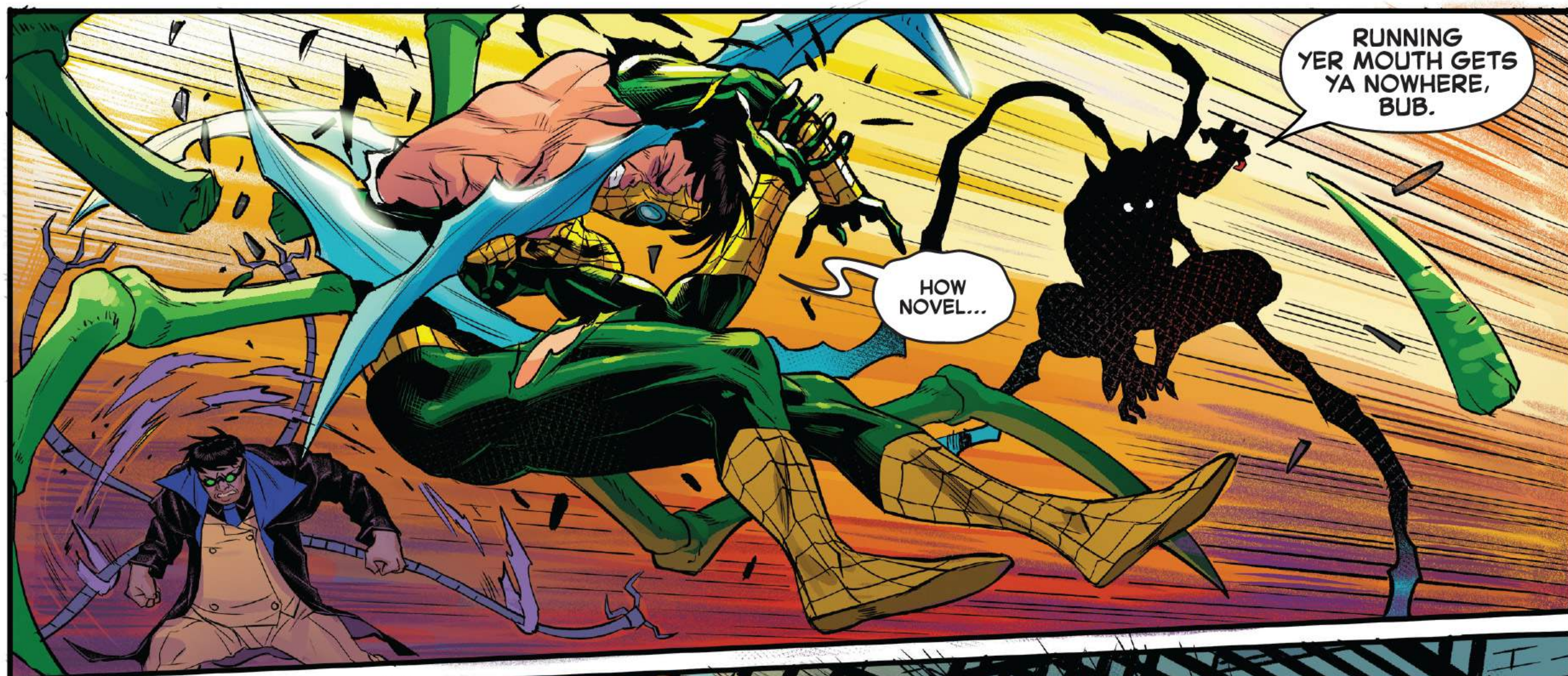


YOUR FIXATION ON THE PAST IS PATHETIC.



AND YOU? I SUPPOSE THEY DON'T KNOW YOUR **IMMORTAL LITTLE SECRET** JUST YET. DO THEY?





RUNNING
YER MOUTH GETS
YA NOWHERE,
BUB.

HOW
NOVEL...



YOU
WANT MY
TECH? JUST
TAKE IT...

THAM

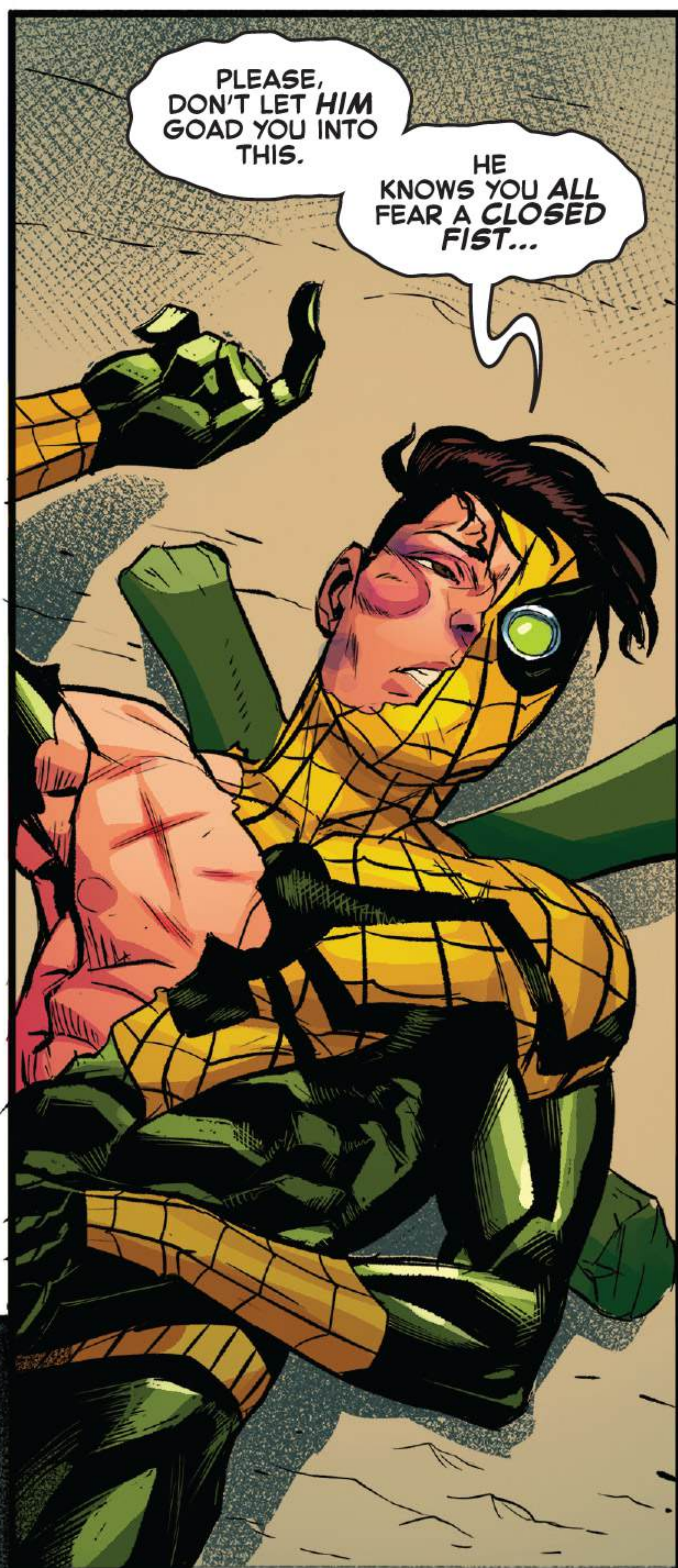


FOOL! YOU
ARE INFERIOR!

YOUR
BODY AND YOUR
TECHNOLOGY ARE
USELESS TO
US!

THO

SHK



PLEASE,
DON'T LET HIM
GOAD YOU INTO
THIS.

HE
KNOWS YOU ALL
FEAR A CLOSED
FIST...



IT WAS
BRIAN BANNER
WHO KILLED YOUR
MOTHER IN A DRUNKEN
OUTBURST AND FILLED
YOUR VEINS WITH
RAGE.



TORBERT
DIDN'T SELL YOUR SOUL
TO THE DEVIL TO CURE HIS
CANCER BUT I KNOW THAT
DOESN'T MATTER.

LOOK AT ALL OF
YOU--TORTURED MEN.
TORMENT FROM LESSER
MINDS IS YOUR ONLY
CONSTANT.



NOW
LOOK AT
ME...

MY
FATHER DIED,
I WAS LIBERATED
FROM HIS ABUSE,
CELEBRATED FROM
A YOUNG AGE
AND BECAME...
AMAZING.

I BUILT
THESE "CRUDE"
ARMS IN FIRST GRADE.
I'VE PROTECTED THIS
NEIGHBORHOOD
EVER SINCE...



OPEN YOUR
EYES, OTTO. YOU
COULD *STILL* BE
THE BEST OF
US--

PLEASE!



YOU THINK I CAME HERE MERELY TO KILL YOU?

THAT I MOVED MOUNTAINS ONLY TO BE SWAYED BY YOUR... MORALITY?

SHUNK



A PEDESTRIAN TECHNOLOGY! USED BY THE BOURGEOIS TO BULLY ONE ANOTHER INTO IMAGINED PURITY.

MOST LACK *THE SPINE* OR THE SENTIMENTALITY TO *CHANGE* THE WORLD, BUT I'VE *EVOLVED* BEYOND SUCH TRIVIAL ABSTRACTIONS.



THANKS TO MY TECHNOLOGY. A SYNTHETIC BLOOD-PARASITE NATIVE TO EARTH-5069. I ACCESS THE MINDSCAPE AND DRINK YOUR INTELLECT.

YOUR ENTIRE MIND, EVERYTHING YOU ARE, BELONGS TO ME...

YOU CEASE TO EXIST...AND MY MIND GROWS SUPERIOR.



ONE DOWN.

SEVERAL THOUSAND TO GO.

ATLANTIS.
EARTH-7214.

TEN THOUSAND ATLANTEANS
COLLAPSE, SILENT, INTO THE OCEAN
WITH FAINT RECOGNITION.

MY HISTORY
BUMPS OUT OF
ONE GROOVE AND
INTO ANOTHER.

GRIEF WASHES OVER
ME AS I RECOGNIZE
HIS ATTENTION TO
DETAIL.

ONE OF US IS DEAD AND THE
SUPERFICIAL DILETTANTE FROM
EARTH-616 IS RESPONSIBLE.

IT'S *FINALLY*
TIME TO ACT.

ALL AT ONCE, I FEEL
HIS INVISIBLE TENDRILS
SPREAD THROUGH THE
MULTIVERSE.

AND YET,
HE REMAINS
BLIND.



IN THIS *INVISIBLE* WAR WE
WAGE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER,
I AM HIS SUPERIOR.

I AM THE
ENDING HE
SEEKS.

I AM THE
SUPREME
OCTOPUS.





THERE I AM, DEAD AGAIN. ALL BECAUSE NORMAN OSBORN WANTS TO COVER UP WHAT HE DID TO ME.

AS AN EASILY ERASED VARIABLE, I'VE DIED FOR MANY REASONS.

ON THIS EARTH, I'M BORN ADDICTED TO GAMMA. MY BRAIN FAILED AT PUBERTY.

HERE, PRESIDENT M.O.D.O.K. WANTED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF ME.

HERE, I GOT LOST IN THE FOREST. NOBODY LOOKED FOR ME.

IN MOST UNIVERSES, OTTO OCTAVIUS IS NOTHING BUT AN IMPOVERISHED CHILD FROM A BROKEN HOME.

THE STATISTICAL CONSTANT OF MY EXISTENCE IS FAILURE.



I DERIVE NO PLEASURE FROM THESE OBSERVATIONS, NOR AM I HERE TO PLAY A ROLE. I AM MERELY WITNESS TO A CONCLUSION.

AS A MASTER OF THE MYSTIC ARTS, THE LEADER OF A NATION AND MY WORLD'S SORCERER SUPREME: I AM THE ANOMALY.

FOREVER TASKED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF KEEPING MYSELF IN LINE.



THE BAXTER BUILDING.
EARTH-616.
HOME OF THE
SUPERIOR FOUR.

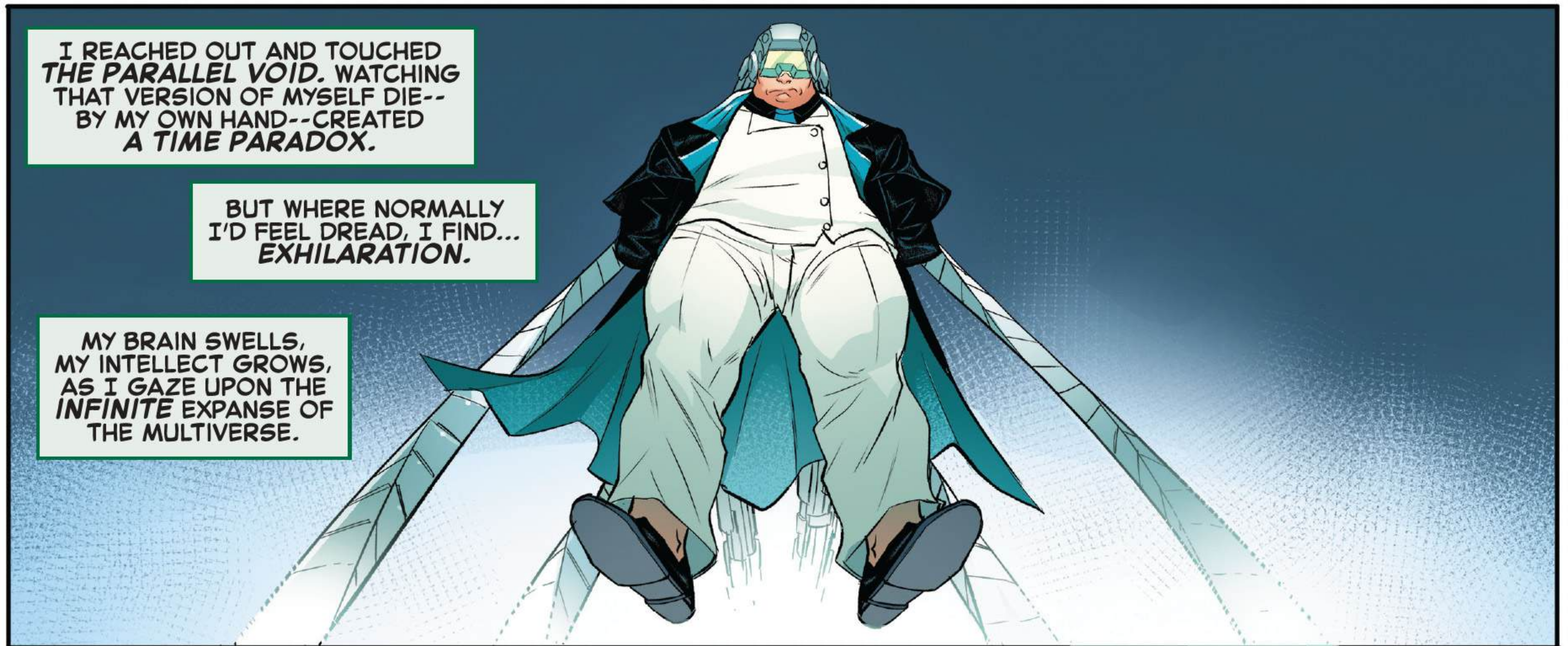
HE'S
BEEN USING
THE BRIDGE
FOR HOURS.



PERHAPS HE'S
PONDERING THE
COST OF KILLING
OUR TEENAGE
VARIANT.

PSSH. HE
AIN'T THAT HUMBLE,
BLAZE. EVEN IF HE THINKS
HE KNOWS HIMSELF IN THAT
SUIT, DOCTOR OCTOPUS
DOESN'T KNOW HIMSELF
IN THE DIRT.

HOWLETT
IS RIGHT--
I'M ENDING
THIS.



I REACHED OUT AND TOUCHED
THE PARALLEL VOID. WATCHING
THAT VERSION OF MYSELF DIE--
BY MY OWN HAND--CREATED
A TIME PARADOX.

BUT WHERE NORMALLY
I'D FEEL DREAD, I FIND...
EXHILARATION.

MY BRAIN SWELLS,
MY INTELLECT GROWS,
AS I GAZE UPON THE
INFINITE EXPANSE OF
THE MULTIVERSE.



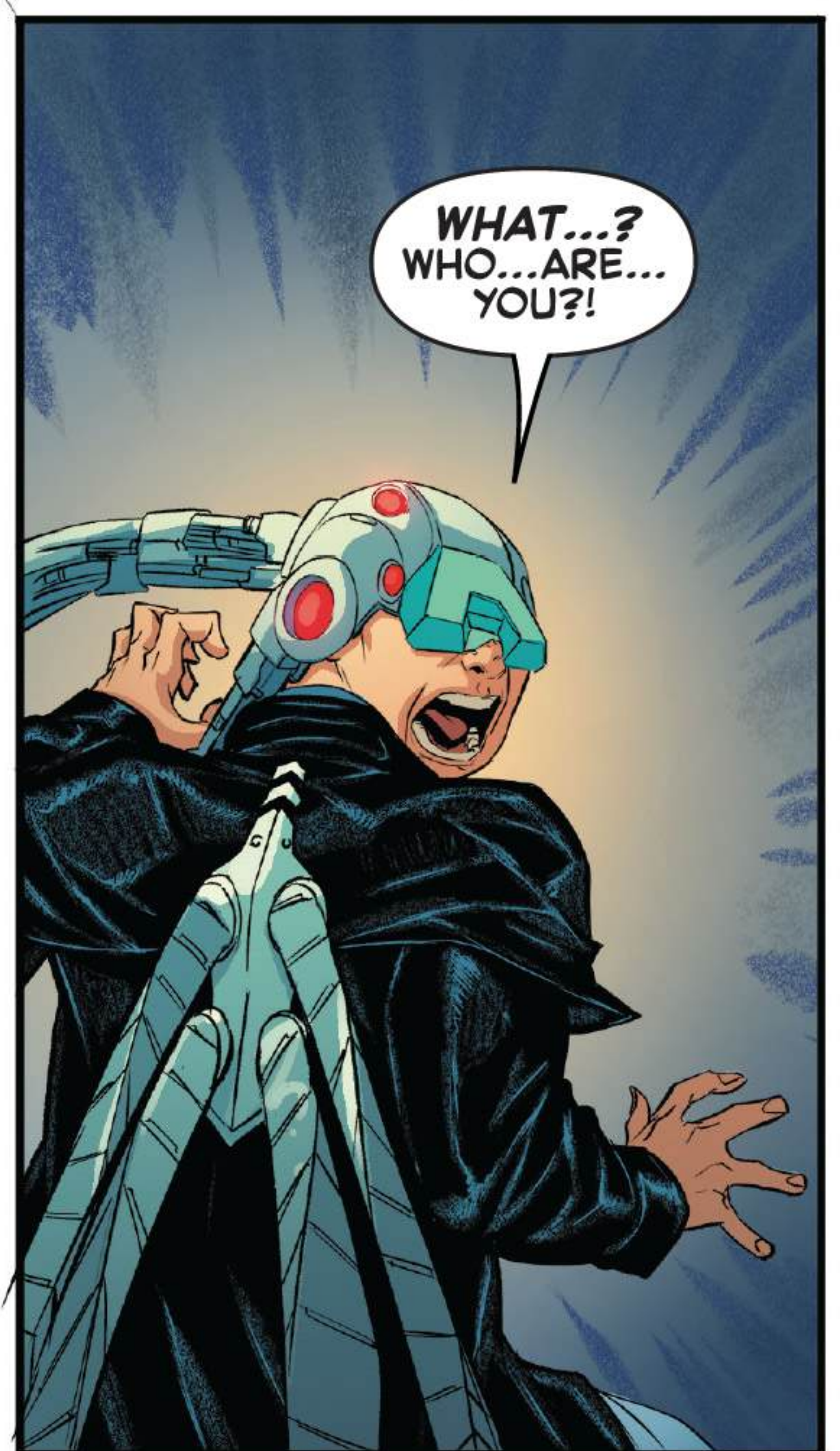
LORDING OVER
POTENTIAL UNIVERSES
TO CONQUER, MINDS TO
SIPHON, SECRETS TO
GAIN. I WILL NOT--

STOP.



TRANSGRESS NO
FURTHER. THIS IS YOUR
FIRST AND FINAL
WARNING.

WHEN THE
DUST SETTLES, I WILL
REMAIN SUPREME. YOU
WILL BE DEAD OR
EXILED.



WHAT...?
WHO...ARE...
YOU?!







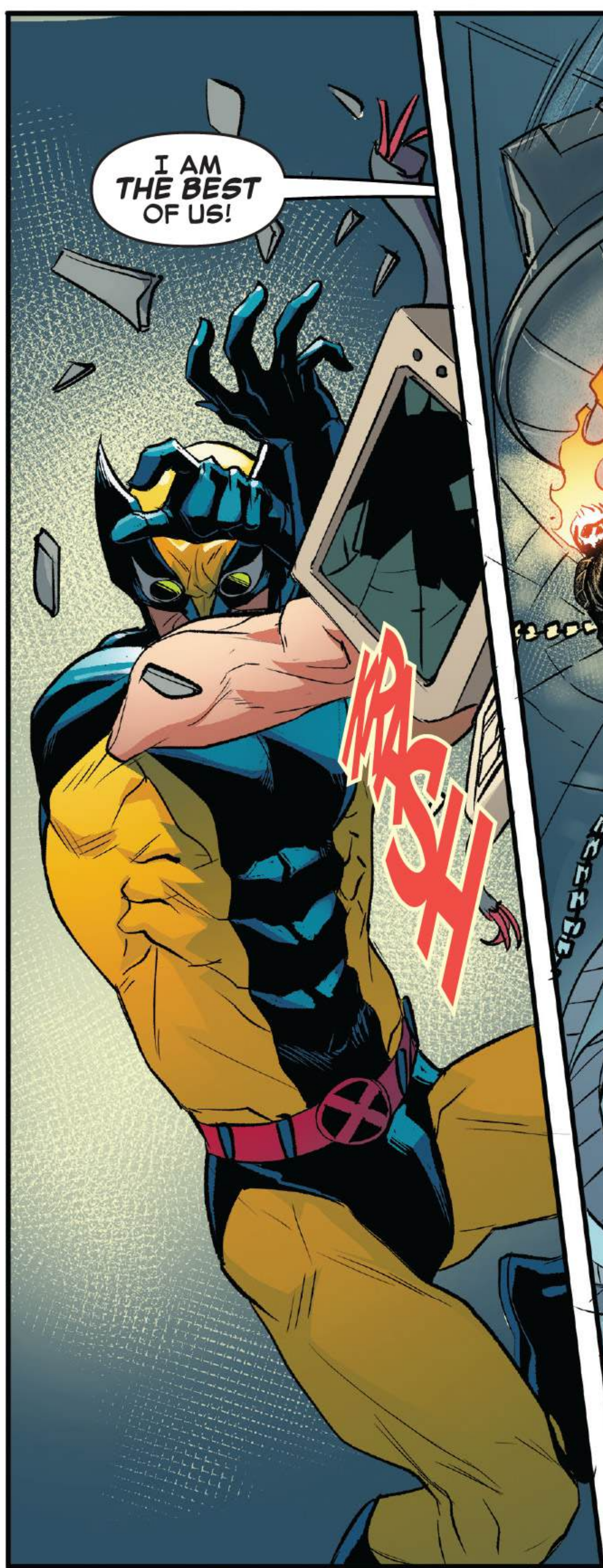
...NO.
NO!

I WILL
NOT BE
CHIDED INTO
SHAME!

GRAB

HOW DARE
YOU JUDGE
ME!

EVERYTHING
I'VE EVER DONE WAS
NECESSARY!



I AM
THE BEST
OF US!

WHAM

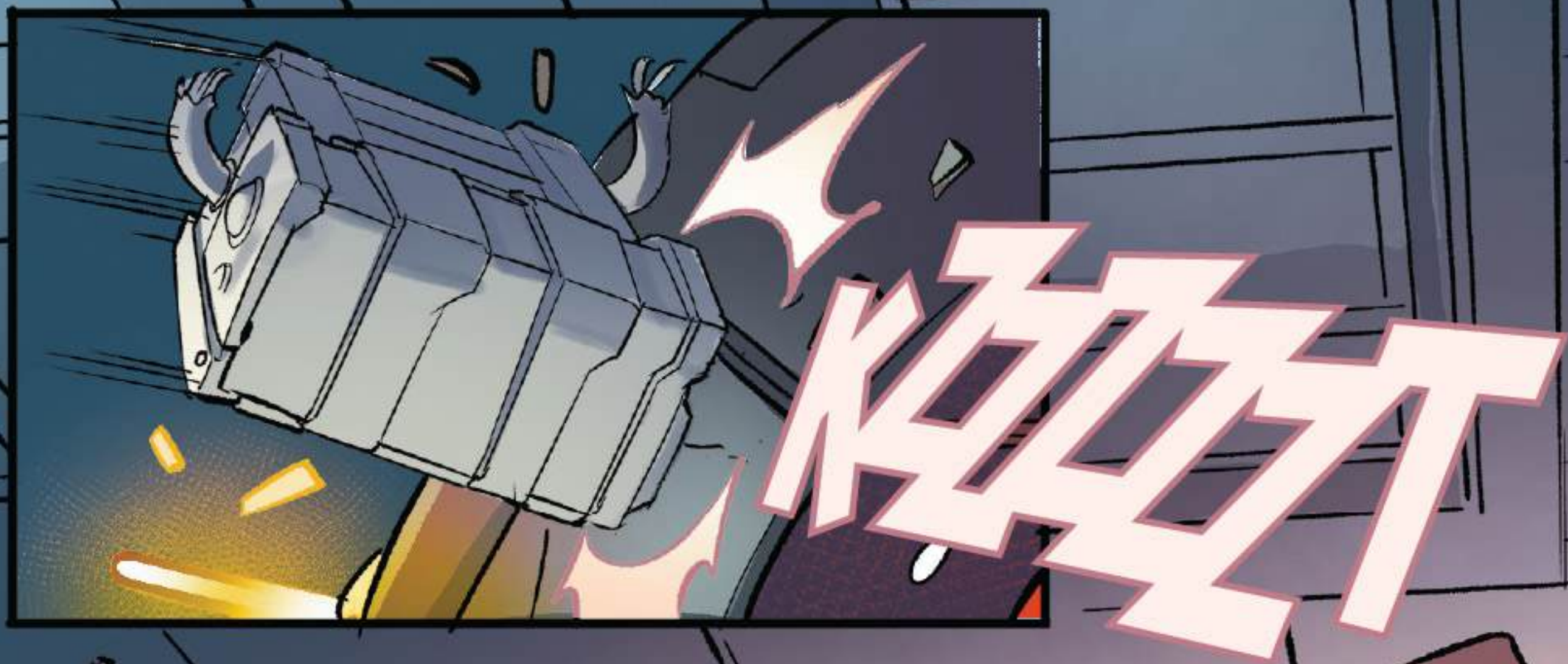


CEASE THIS
MUTINY, OR I'LL
DRAIN YOUR MINDS
LIKE I DID THE
BOY'S!



I'LL
KILL ALL
OF YOU IF
I HAVE
TO!

OTTO,
NO!



LOOK
WHAT YOU'VE
DONE, YOU
LOBOTOMIZED
GOON!

WE'RE
GONNA DIE FOR
THAT PARADOX,
AIN'T WE?

SHUT
UP--BOTH OF
YOU! LET ME
THINK!

THE PANIC
SWITCH.

WE CAN'T
RETURN
WITHOUT IT.

NOOOO!

EXACT LOCATION UNKNOWN.
EARTH-7214.





STOP, JUST STOP!

I'LL BE LACONIC SO YOU UNDERSTAND. WHATEVER THIS IS, ONE THING IS CLEAR.

OUR BEING HERE IS THE COST OF YOUR ACTIONS. NOW, WHY DON'T YOU--?



I'M TIRED OF YER YAPPIN', BANNER. GET OUT OF THE WAY-- I'LL HANDLE 'IM!

LISTEN TO ME OR WE ALL DIE!

RUMBLE



TEN THOUSAND SOULS JUST ENTERED THIS EARTH'S UNDER-WORLD...

RUMBLE

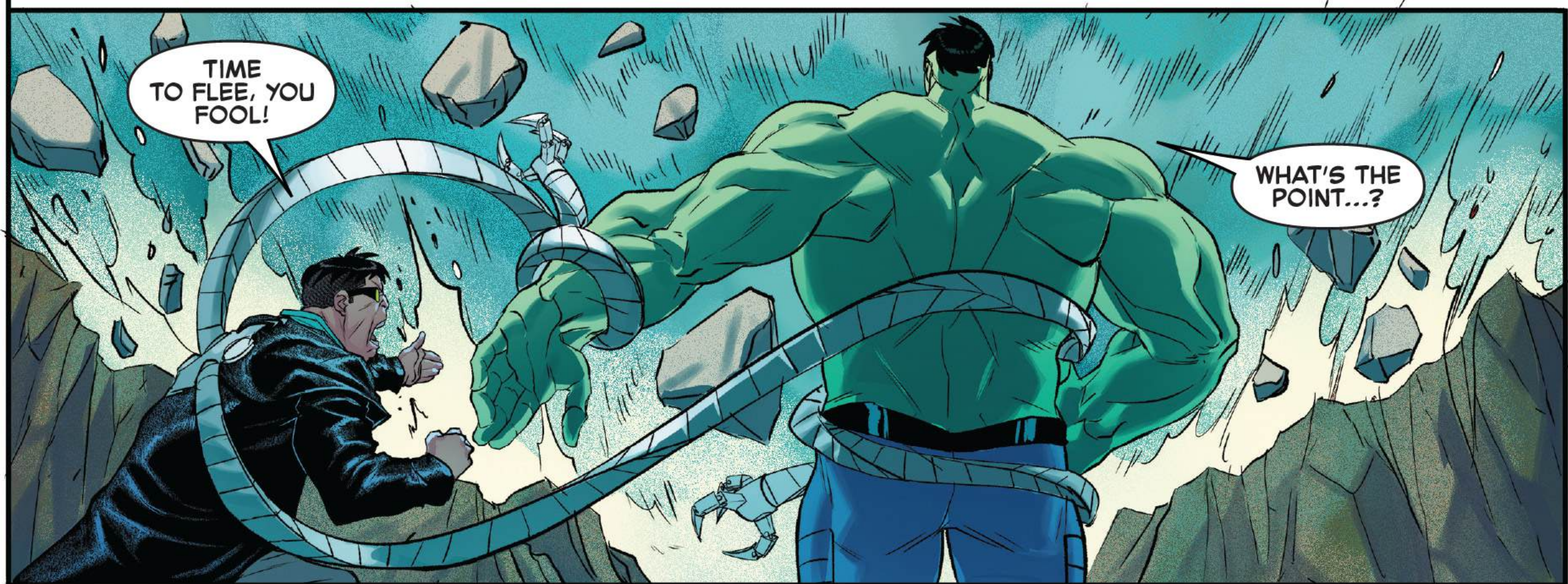
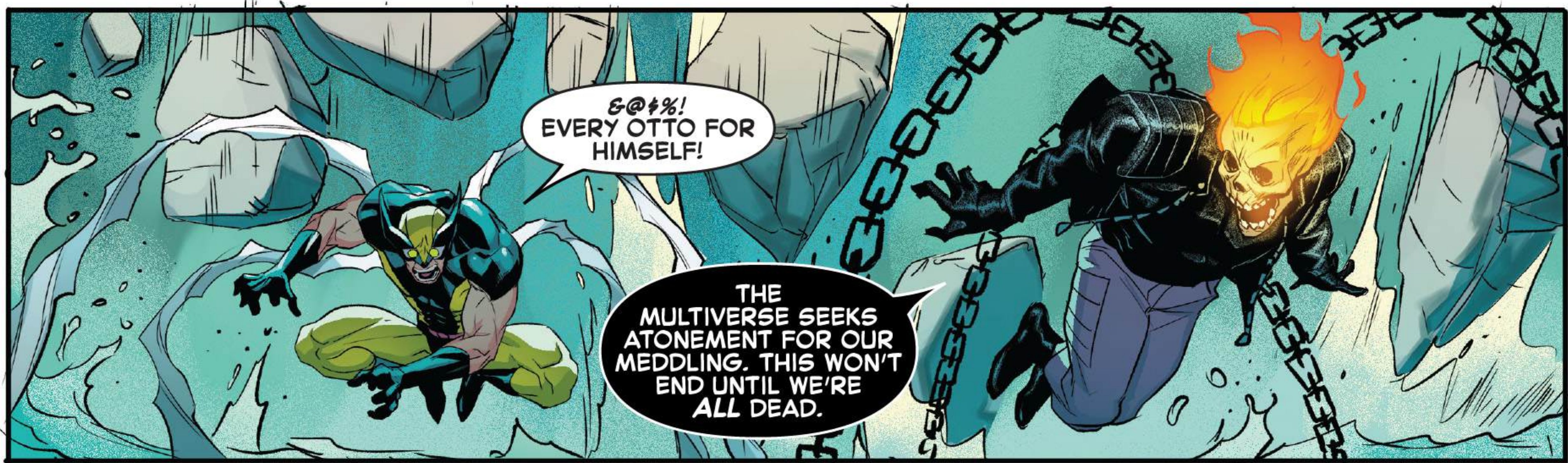


TSUNAMI!

RUN!

HUH?

POW



THE SAVAGE LAND.
EARTH-8968.

...MYSELF.

UNHAND ME,
YOU NEOPHYTE
ILLUSIONIST!

PLEASE,
LET'S FORGO
THE CHEST-
BEATING.

NO MATTER
HOW LIGHT I TRIED
TO STEP, HERE WE ARE
AT THE INEVITABLE
END.

OTTO, I
AM THE SUPREME
OCTOPUS. I'M YOUR
SUPERIOR AND YOU
WILL BOW IN MY
PRESENCE.

I'D RATHER BE
REDUCED TO
QUARKS.

I HARBOR NO
MISCONCEPTIONS,
YOU'VE **BESTED** ME.
BUT I WILL **MAKE**
YOU PAY FOR--

PLEASE, I'VE LIQUIFIED
SHUMA-GORATH,
DORMAMMU'S
GROVELED AT MY FEET,
I'VE BURNED **KNULL**
TO ASH.

I PULLED
YOU THROUGH
EARTH-7214 WITH THE
FLICK OF MY WRIST.
TO SHOW YOU WHAT
YOU **COULD**
BECOME.

AND
YET, YOU REMAIN
INDIGNANT IN THE FACE
OF THIS COSMIC
REVELATION.



I'M NOT HERE TO KILL YOU. BUT YOUR ATTITUDE IN THE FACE OF **MY POWER** MAKES IT CLEAR THAT YOU ARE TOO MYOPIC TO SERVE ANOTHER. A SHAME--YOUR EGO WILL BE YOUR UNDOING.

YOU JUST MADE A **GRAVE** MISCALCULATION.



I KNOW HOW THIS ENDS, OTTO. THE OTHERS **DON'T** SAVE YOU.

THOUGH THEY MAY NOT UTTER IT, THEY CRAVE THE KNOWLEDGE I HOLD. YOU'LL SEE.



AH @!\$%#%, ANOTHER ONE OF US?

A SORCERER SUPREME, NO LESS.

I PRESAGE DOOM IF WE ENGAGE.

LOOK! I WAS **RIGHT**. HE PULLED US HERE, HE'S PLANNED OUR EVERY MOVE. THERE'S ONE OF HIM, BUT MANY OF US.



WE CAN KILL HIM, IF WE WORK TOGETHER.

SOUNDS FUN.



WHAT IF HE **CAN'T** DIE?

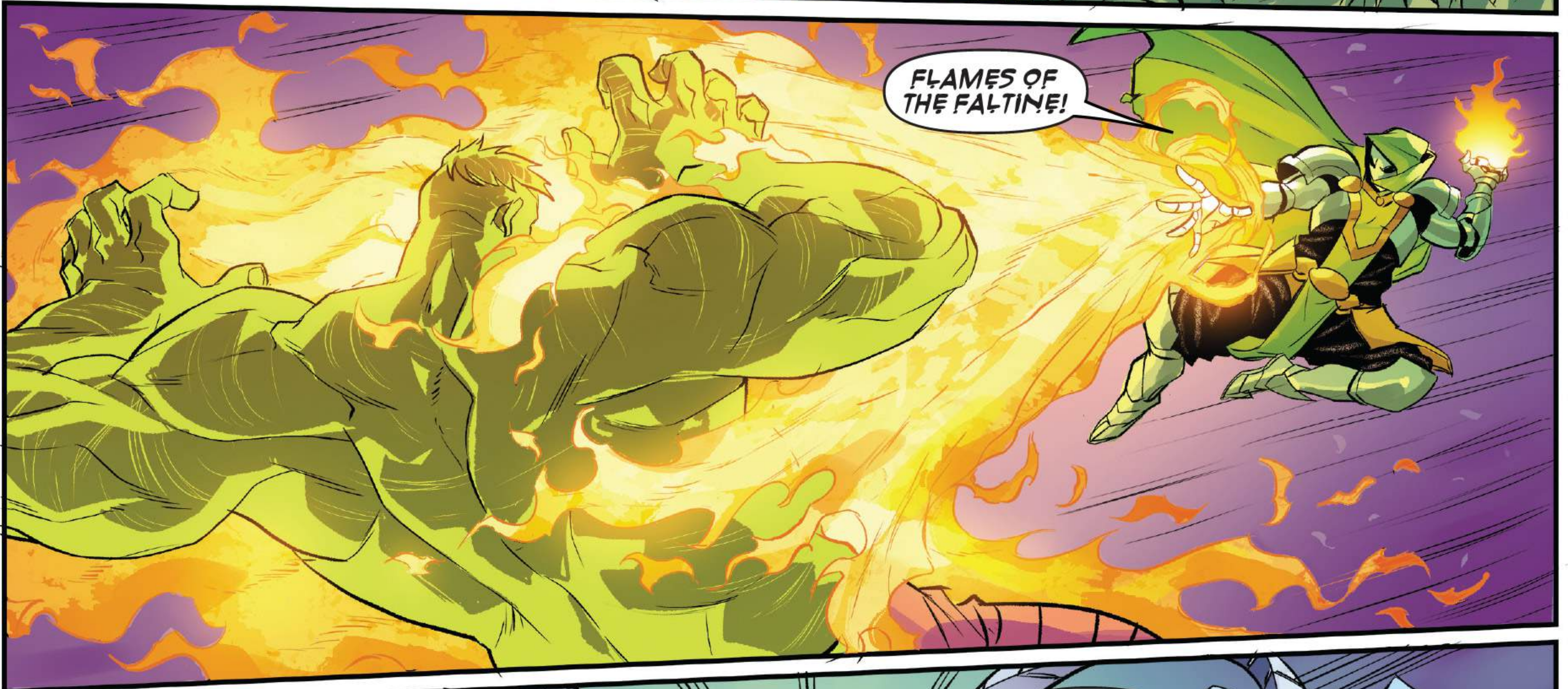
ARE WE NOT **MORE** THAN AGENTS OF CHAOS AND DECIMATION?

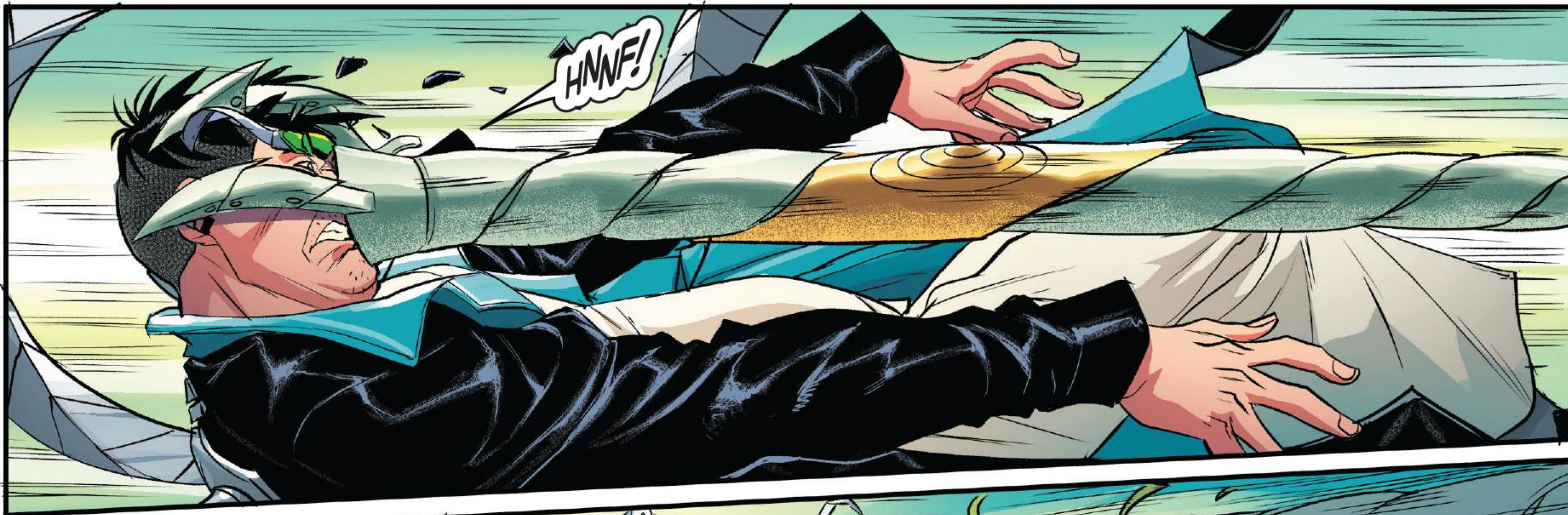


OTTOS! THE FOOL FROM 616 IS THREATENED! HIS REGRESSIVE MIND FEARS **YOUR** POTENTIAL.

YOU ARE MEN WHO MIND SWAP BODIES FOR SPORT! YOU CAN BE ANYONE YOU WANT. WHY MURDER YOUR OWN KIND?

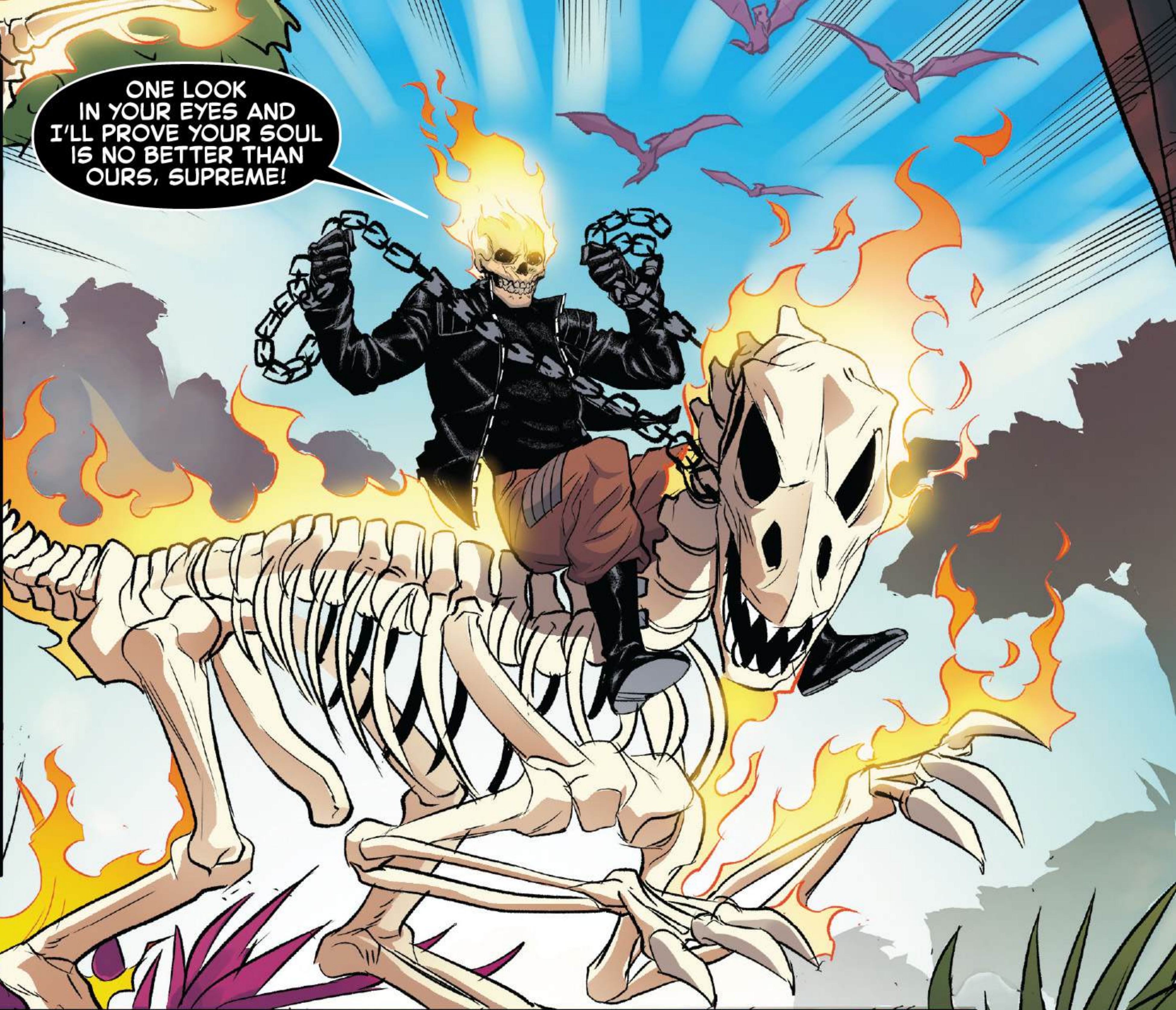
KNEEL BEFORE ME AND I'LL STRETCH YOUR MINDS UNTIL YOU CAN PEER **THROUGH** ATOMS.







HOLD STILL, INFERNAL BEAST!



ONE LOOK IN YOUR EYES AND I'LL PROVE YOUR SOUL IS NO BETTER THAN OURS, SUPREME!



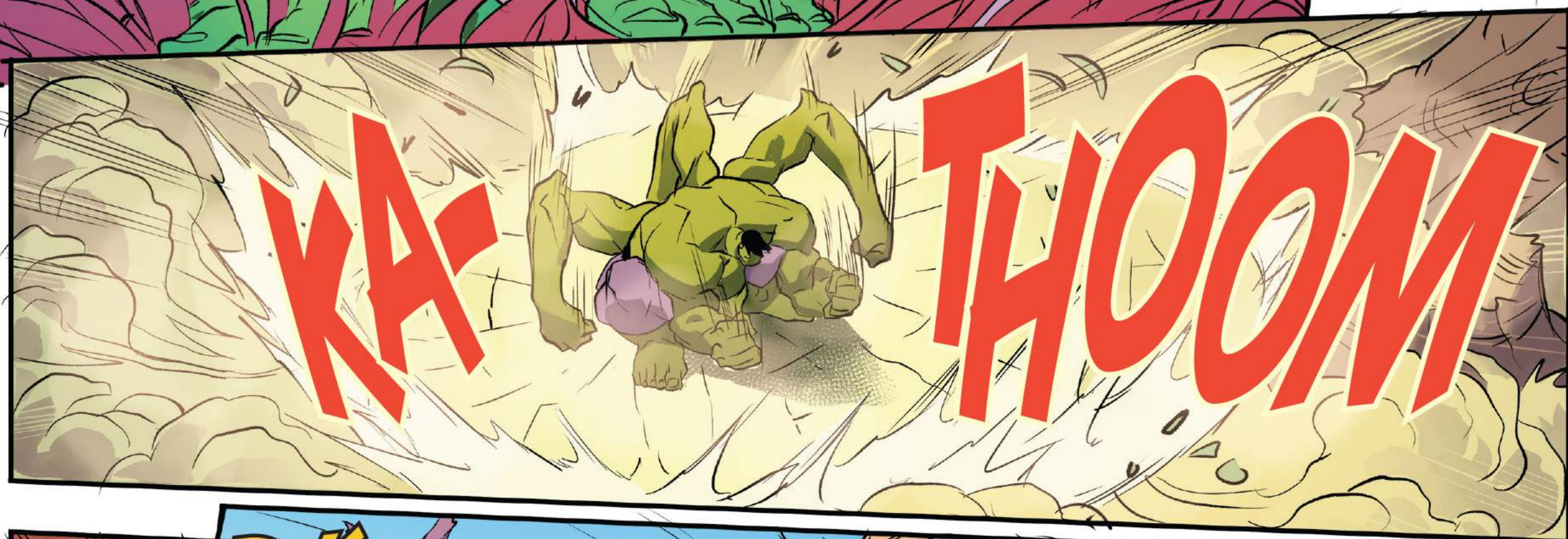
THE BOUNDLESS DEPTH OF YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS FUELS ME.



ENCHANTED FOOL!



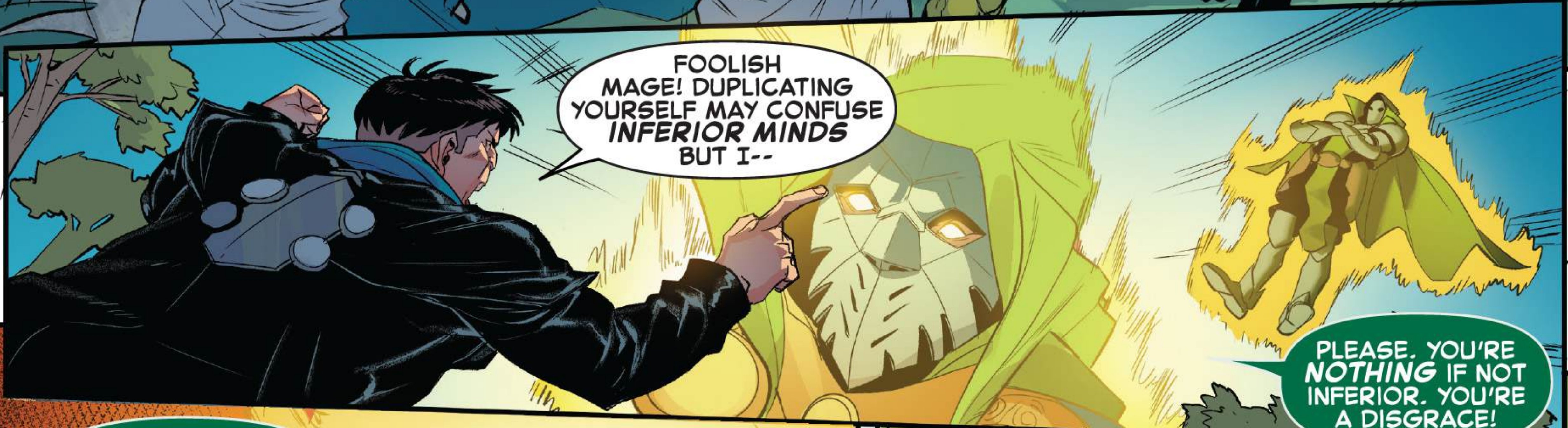
EVEN THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE'S HELLFIRE WITHERS WITHIN THE ICY TENDRILS OF IKTHALON.





FINALLY,
YOU'VE LOOSED
YOUR CHAINS. WE
ATTACK ON MY
SIGNAL.

I ##\$%##
HATE MAGIC.



FOOLISH
MAGE! DUPLICATING
YOURSELF MAY CONFUSE
INFERIOR MINDS
BUT I--

PLEASE. YOU'RE
NOTHING IF NOT
INFERIOR. YOU'RE
A DISGRACE!

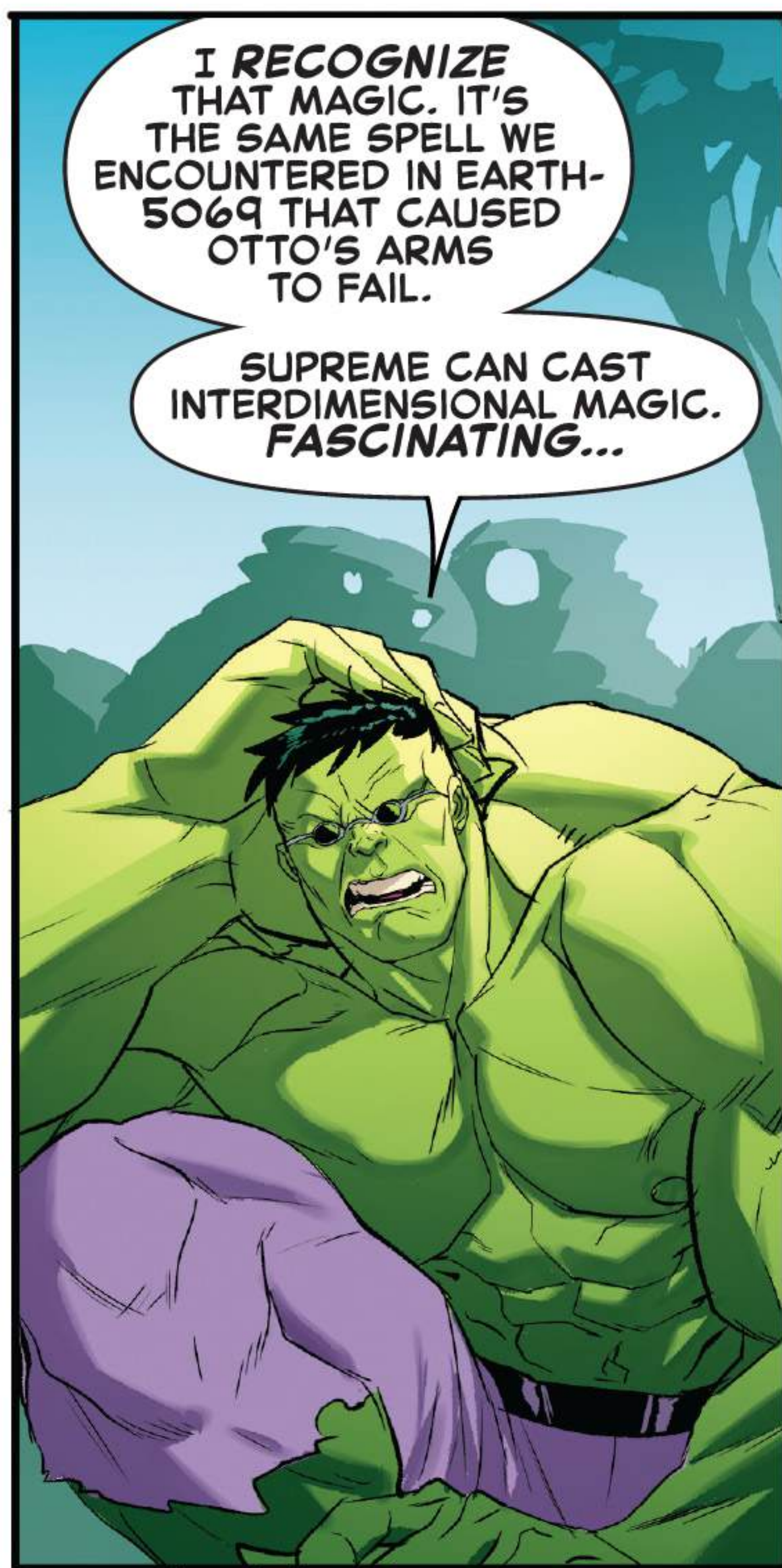


YOU SEE, IN
MY WORLD, THERE IS
AN INCANTATION FOR
TECHNOLOGY.

BREAK DOWN
UNDER THE GAZE
OF THE **EXIZ-TENZ**
EYES.

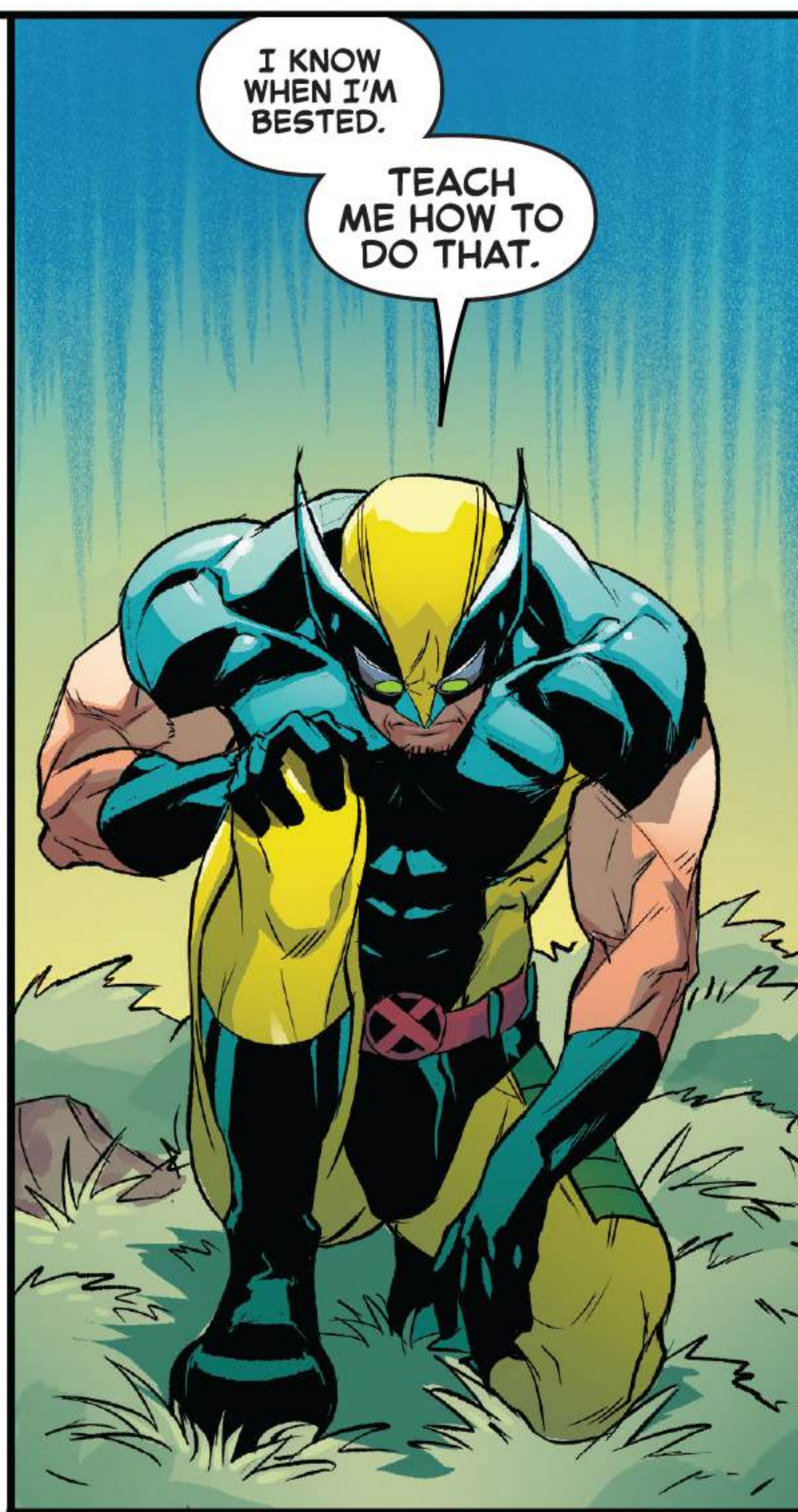


NO! MY
ARMS!
FIGHT FAIR,
YOU DECEITFUL
DEVIL!



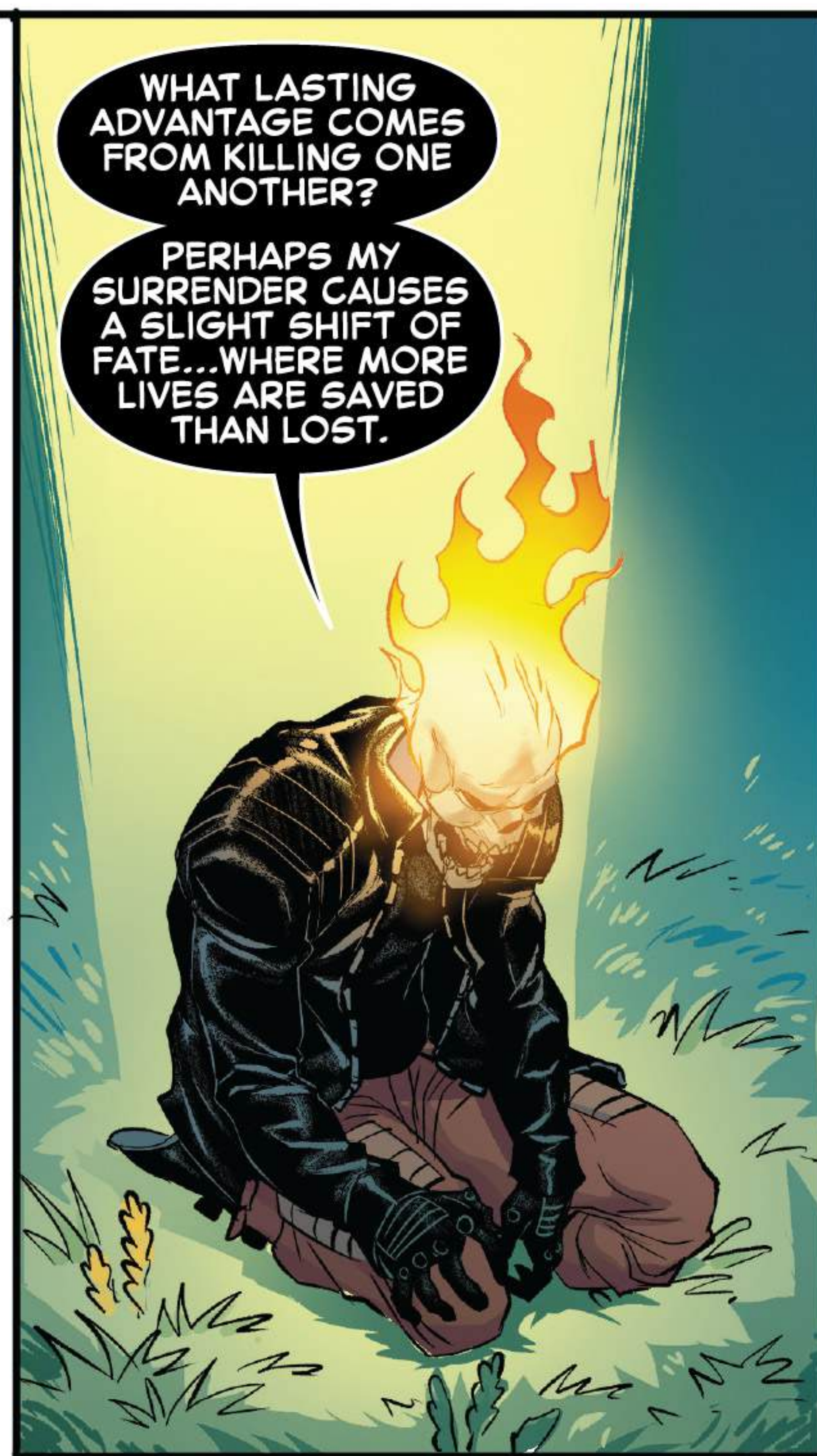
I RECOGNIZE THAT MAGIC. IT'S THE SAME SPELL WE ENCOUNTERED IN EARTH-5069 THAT CAUSED OTTO'S ARMS TO FAIL.

SUPREME CAN CAST INTERDIMENSIONAL MAGIC. FASCINATING...



I KNOW WHEN I'M BESTED.

TEACH ME HOW TO DO THAT.



WHAT LASTING ADVANTAGE COMES FROM KILLING ONE ANOTHER?

PERHAPS MY SURRENDER CAUSES A SLIGHT SHIFT OF FATE...WHERE MORE LIVES ARE SAVED THAN LOST.



COWARDS!

DON'T YIELD TO THIS ABOMINATION! NOT NOW, NOT WHEN WE'RE--



I CAN'T MOVE! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?



OTTO, SOME TIME AGO, I WAS A SURGEON. A TALENTED ONE. YOU CAN TRUST MY ASSESSMENT.

IT SEEMS MY SPELL HAS CAUSED BLOOD FLOW TO SEIZE ACROSS YOUR BODY. PERHAPS DUE TO THE CONNECTION SHARED BY YOUR ARMS AND BRAIN.

APOLOGIES, MY ALLITERATIVE FOE, I'M AFRAID THAT'LL QUICKLY TURN GANGRENOUS...



RIPPP

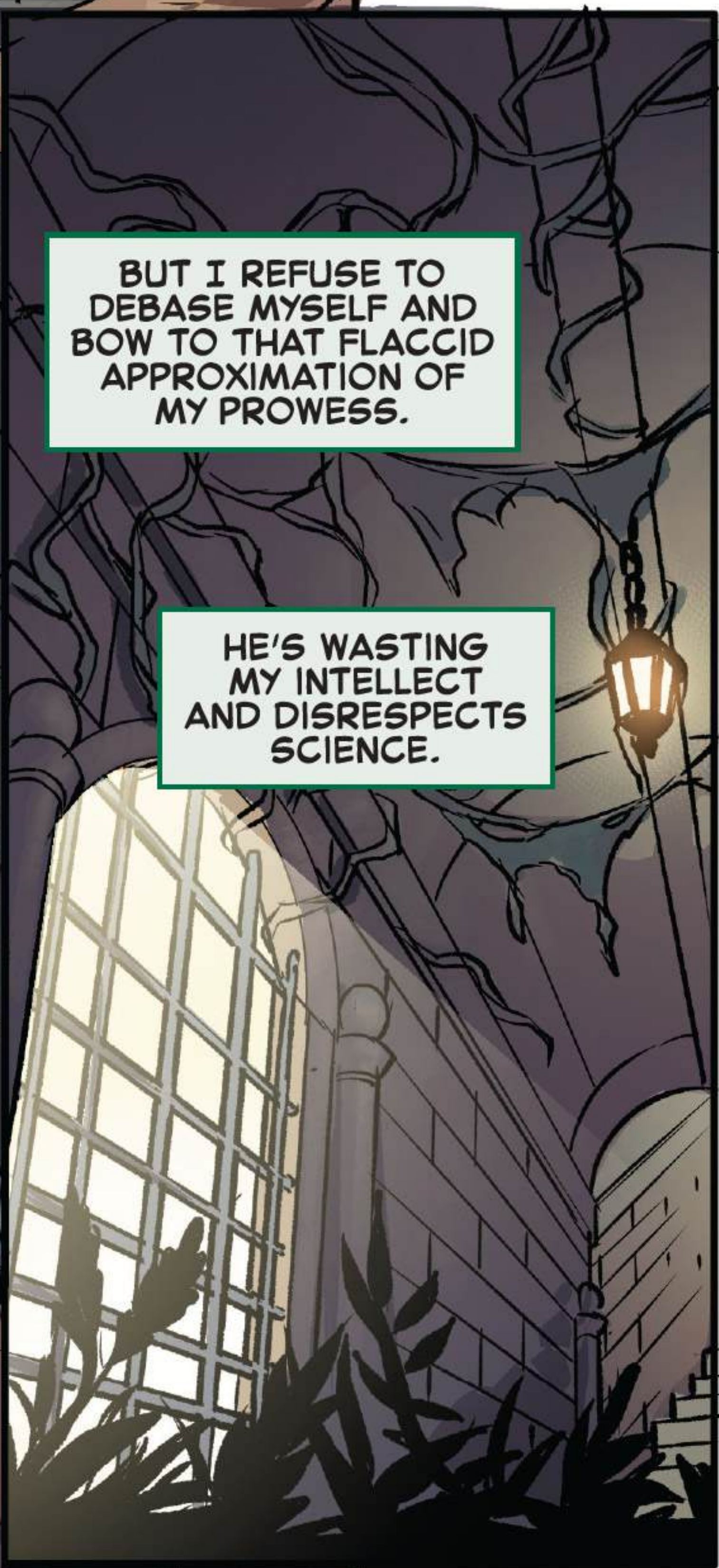
...WE'LL HAVE TO AMPUTATE.

AHHH!



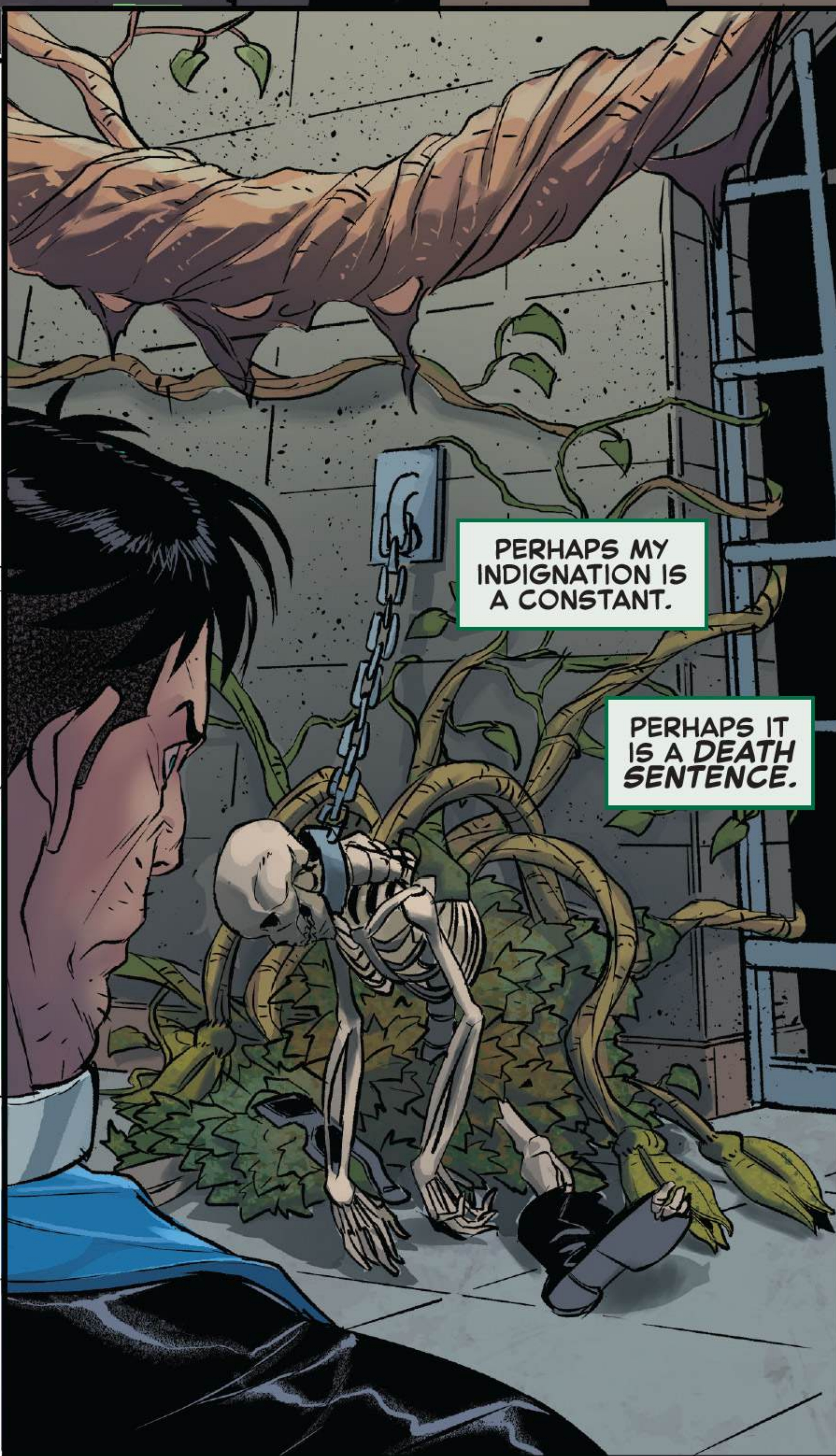
I RUN THE
SCENARIOS AND
COME TO **ONE**
CONCLUSION.

THE MAGICIAN IMPRISONED
ME HERE AS A TEST OF
WILL. WHILE THE OTHERS
HUMILIATED ME TO SATIATE
THEIR EGOS.



BUT I REFUSE TO
DEBASE MYSELF AND
BOW TO THAT FLACCID
APPROXIMATION OF
MY PROWESS.

HE'S WASTING
MY INTELLECT
AND DISRESPECTS
SCIENCE.



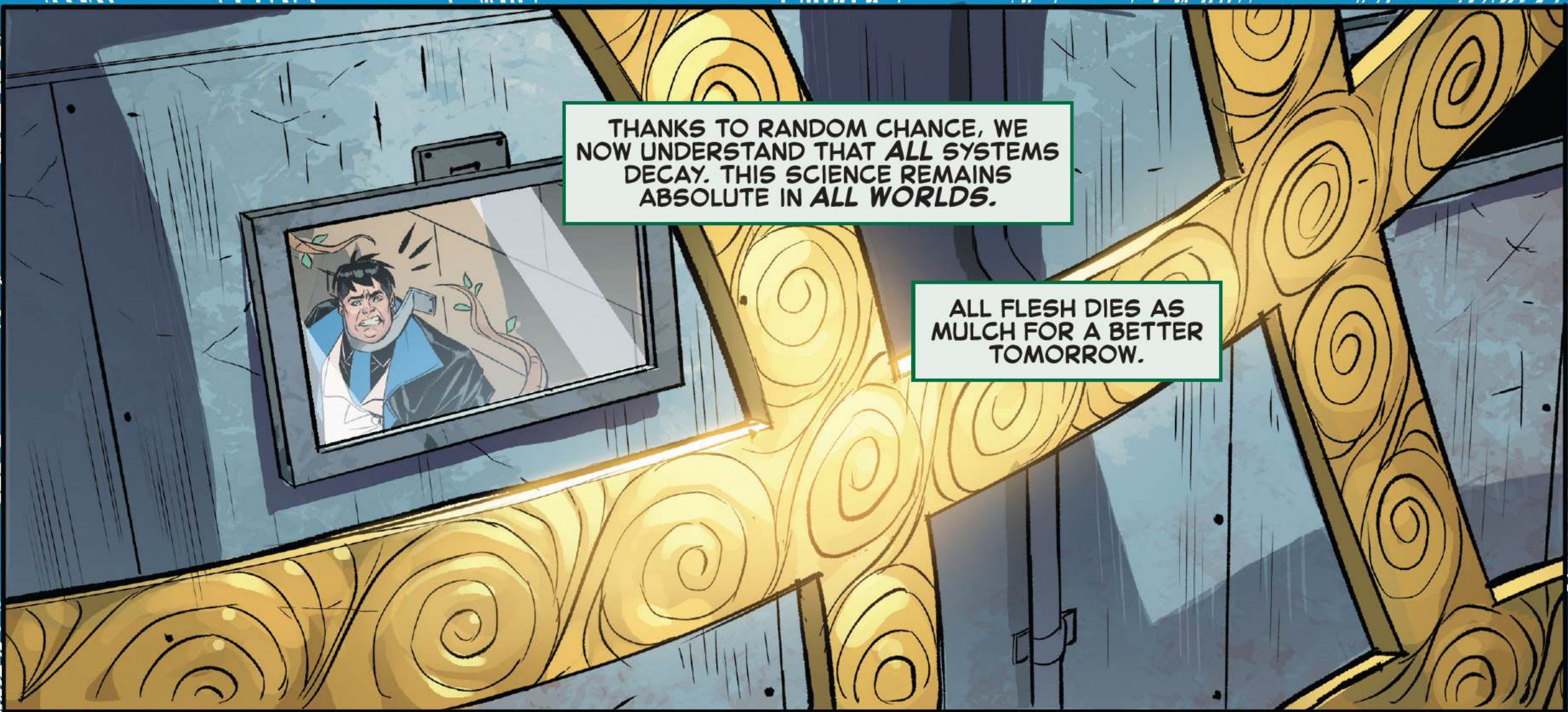
PERHAPS MY
INDIGNATION IS A
CONSTANT.

PERHAPS IT
IS A **DEATH**
SENTENCE.



BUT EVERY GREAT
DISCOVERY HINGES
ON AN ACT OF
SHEER FOLLY.

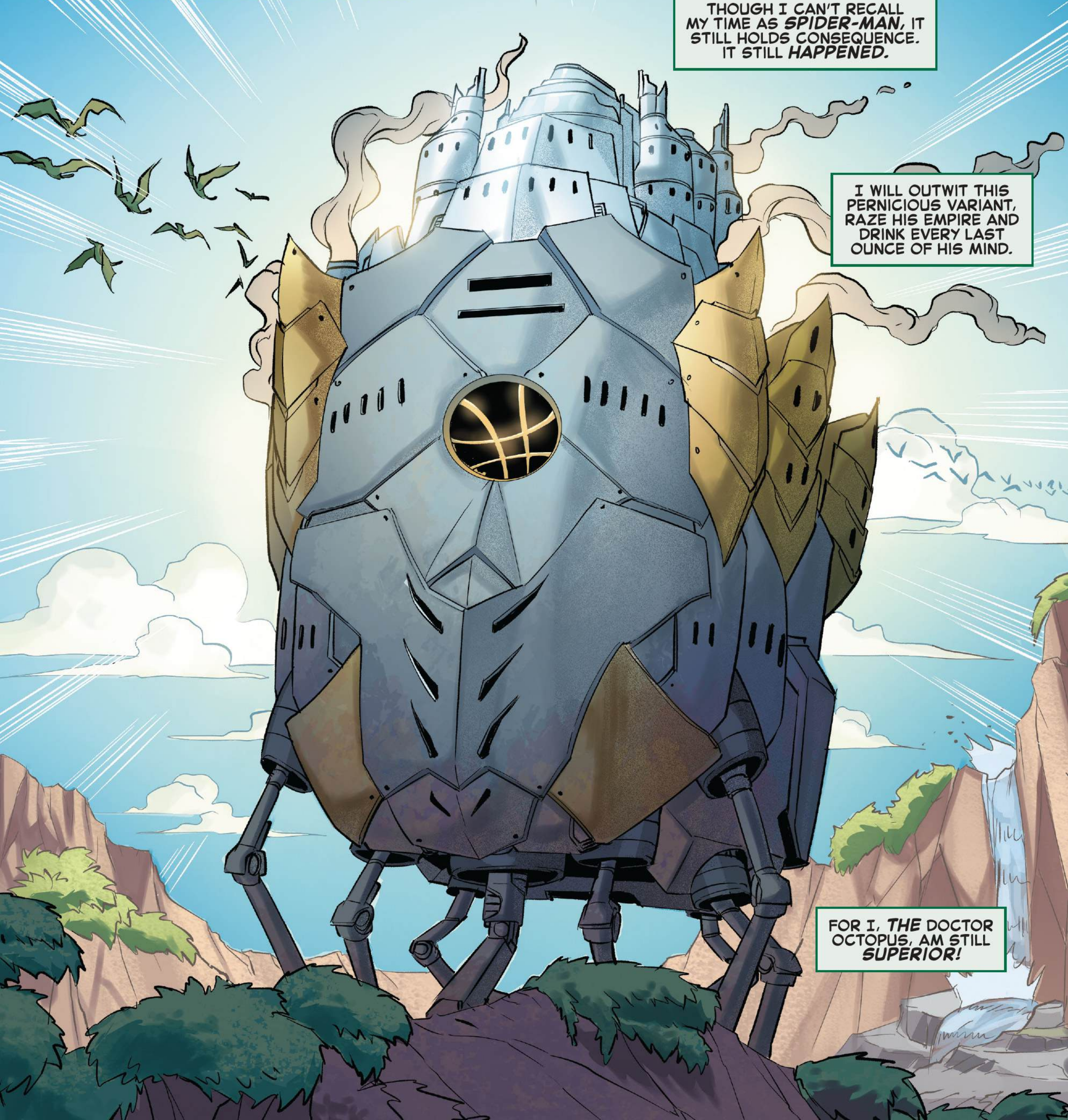
IN 1896, FRENCH PHYSICIST
HENRI BECQUEREL OPENED A
DRAWER AND ACCIDENTALLY
DISCOVERED SPONTANEOUS
RADIOACTIVITY.



THANKS TO RANDOM CHANCE, WE NOW UNDERSTAND THAT **ALL** SYSTEMS DECAY. THIS SCIENCE REMAINS ABSOLUTE IN **ALL** WORLDS.

ALL FLESH DIES AS MULCH FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

THE SUPREME SANCTORUM.



THOUGH I CAN'T RECALL MY TIME AS *SPIDER-MAN*, IT STILL HOLDS CONSEQUENCE. IT STILL **HAPPENED**.

I WILL OUTWIT THIS PERNICIOUS VARIANT, RAZE HIS EMPIRE AND DRINK EVERY LAST OUNCE OF HIS MIND.

FOR I, **THE DOCTOR OCTOPUS**, AM STILL **SUPERIOR!**



A DROP OF BLOOD
CREATED A GERM
OF POSSIBILITY.

NORMALLY, SUCH
AN EVENT WOULD
DISSIPATE LIKE
STATIC IN AN
INFINITE VOID.

AND YET, SOMEHOW,
THE POSSIBILITY
BREAKS ON A ROCK
AND REFORMS IN
THE OCEAN OF THE
MULTIVERSE.

A MIND TUNES TO THE
SIGNAL AND A NEW LIFE
IS BORN IN A GREAT ACT
OF DECOMPOSITION.

THIS *INFERIOR*
CREATURE DOESN'T EVEN
KNOW IT EXISTS AS IT
TRAVERSES THE MURK
BETWEEN WORLDS.

IT MOVES AS
A SENSELESS
EXPLORER,
FOLLOWING AN
UNCONSCIOUS
SIGNAL WITHIN
ITSELF.

THE SUPREME SANCTORUM. EARTH-8968.

IT POSSESSES
NO CONCEPT OF
LIFE OR TIME.

YET SOMEWHERE
IN THE SLIME,
THERE REMAINS
THE *RESIDUE* OF
A PROUD MAN.

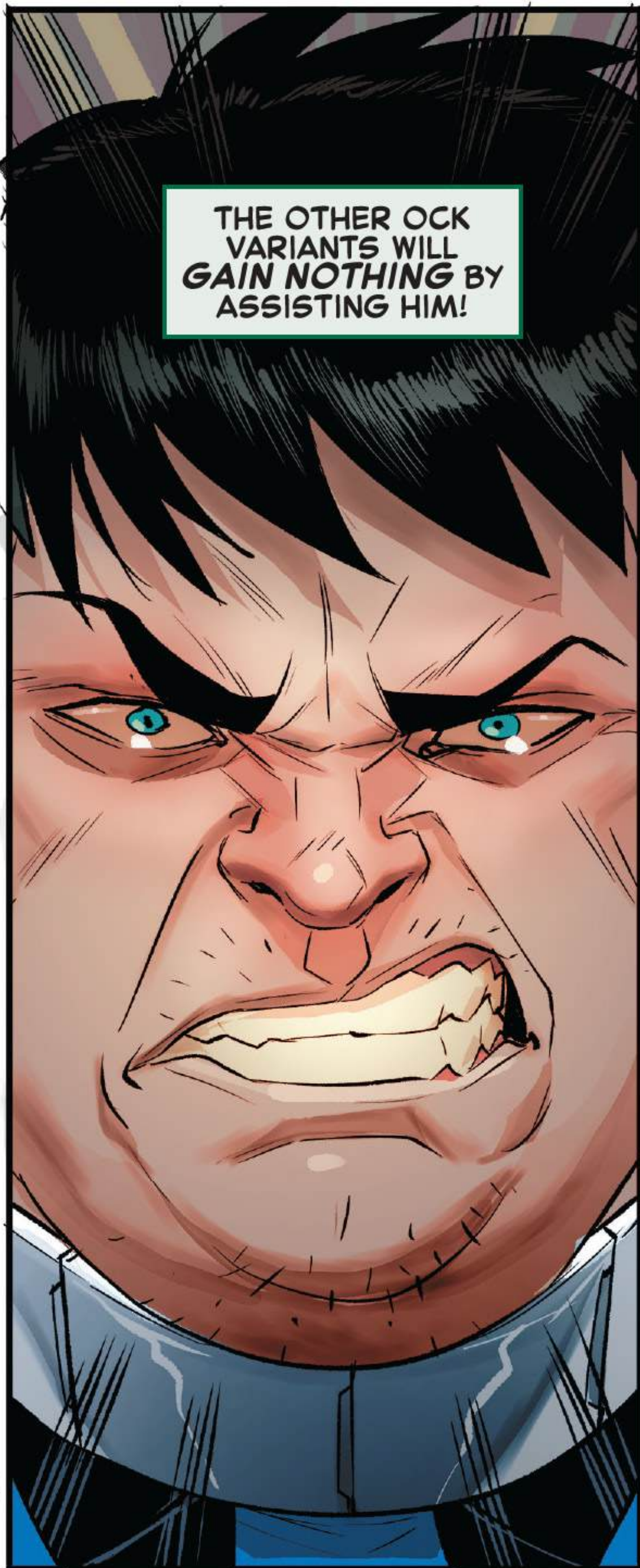
ONE WHO WOULD
REGALE US WITH TALES
OF ITS PROWESS AND
DAUNTLESS JOURNEY...

IF ONLY THIS
MAN-THING
POSSESSED THE
INTELLIGENCE
TO *SPEAK*.



STRANDED IN THE MULTIVERSE! SEVERED FROM MY ARMS! BETRAYED BY MY OWN SUPERIOR FOUR!

WHAT DOES SUPREME HOPE TO GAIN BY IMPRISONING ME, THE GENUINE DOCTOR OCTOPUS, IN THIS FETID PIT?



THE OTHER OCK VARIANTS WILL GAIN NOTHING BY ASSISTING HIM!



FOOLS! IF *THEY* BETRAYED *ME*, IT STANDS TO REASON HE'LL BETRAY THEM!

HRNNN.

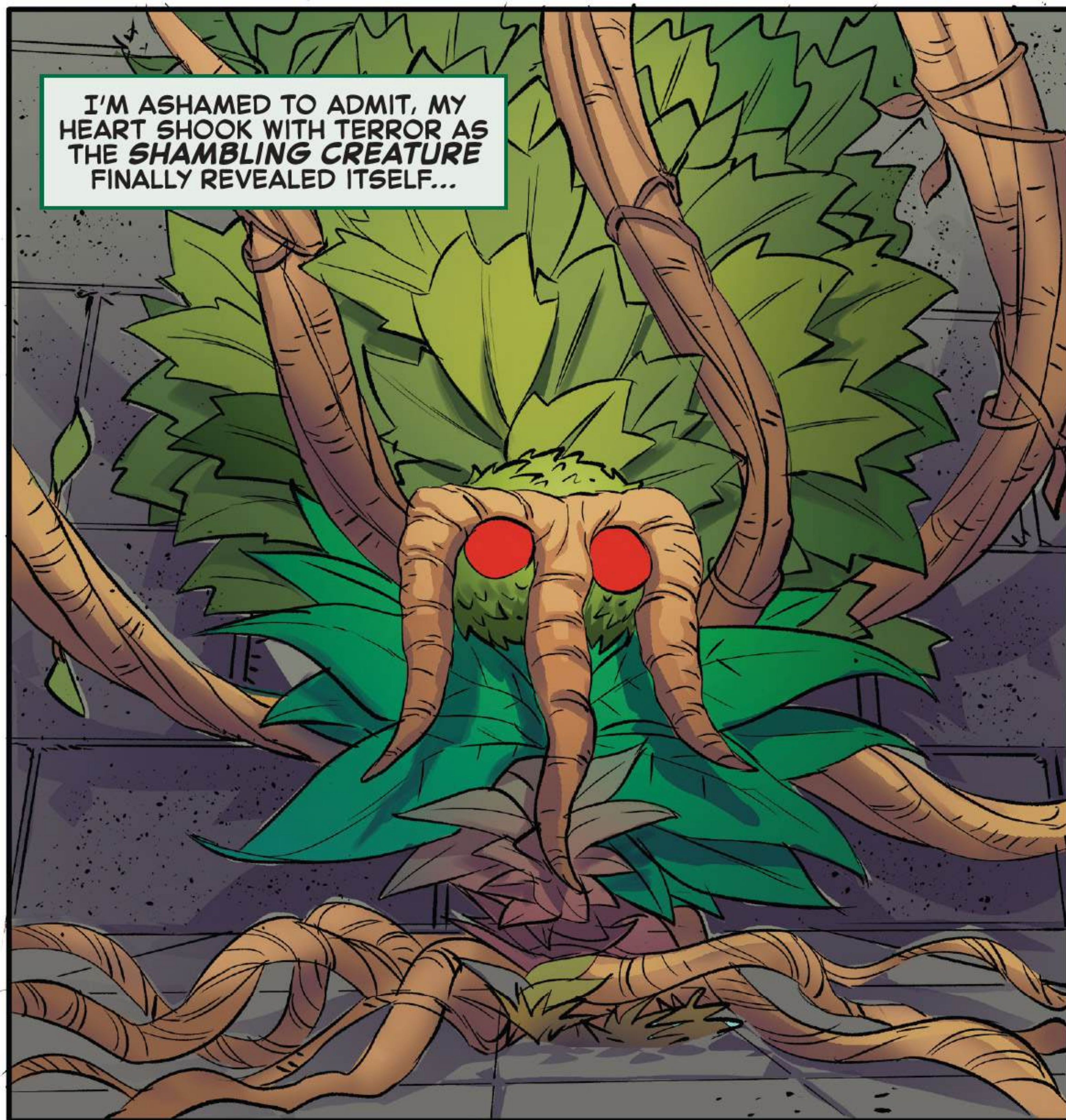


DIFFERENT AS WE MAY BE, WE ALL SHARE THE SAME MIND.



DECIDED TO SHOW YOURSELF, AGAIN, HMM?

YOU MUST CARRY A SHRED OF INTELLIGENCE. HOW CURIOUS.



I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT, MY HEART SHOOK WITH TERROR AS THE **SHAMBLING CREATURE** FINALLY REVEALED ITSELF...

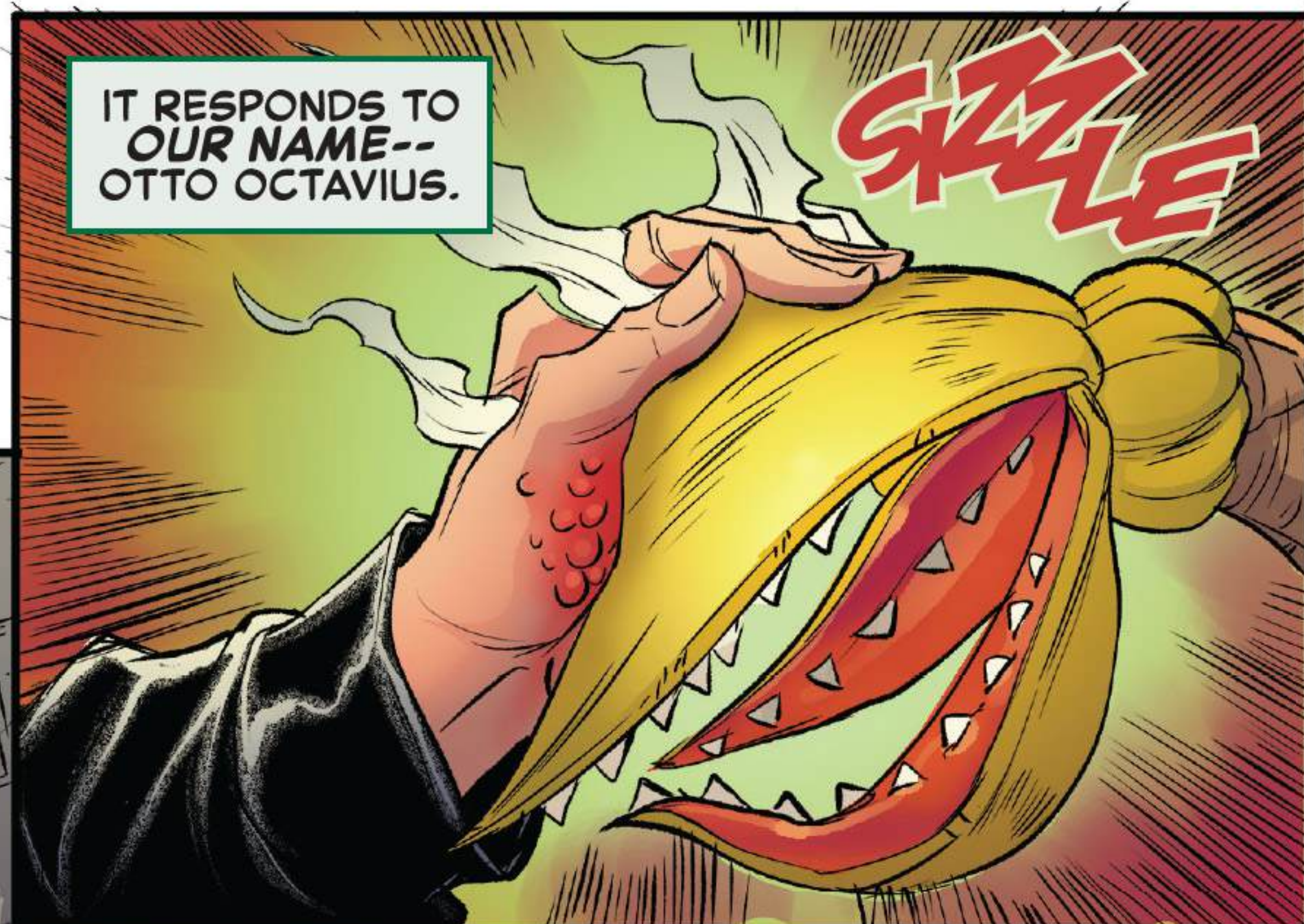


...BUT MY MIND STIRRED WITH UNCANNY FAMILIARITY.



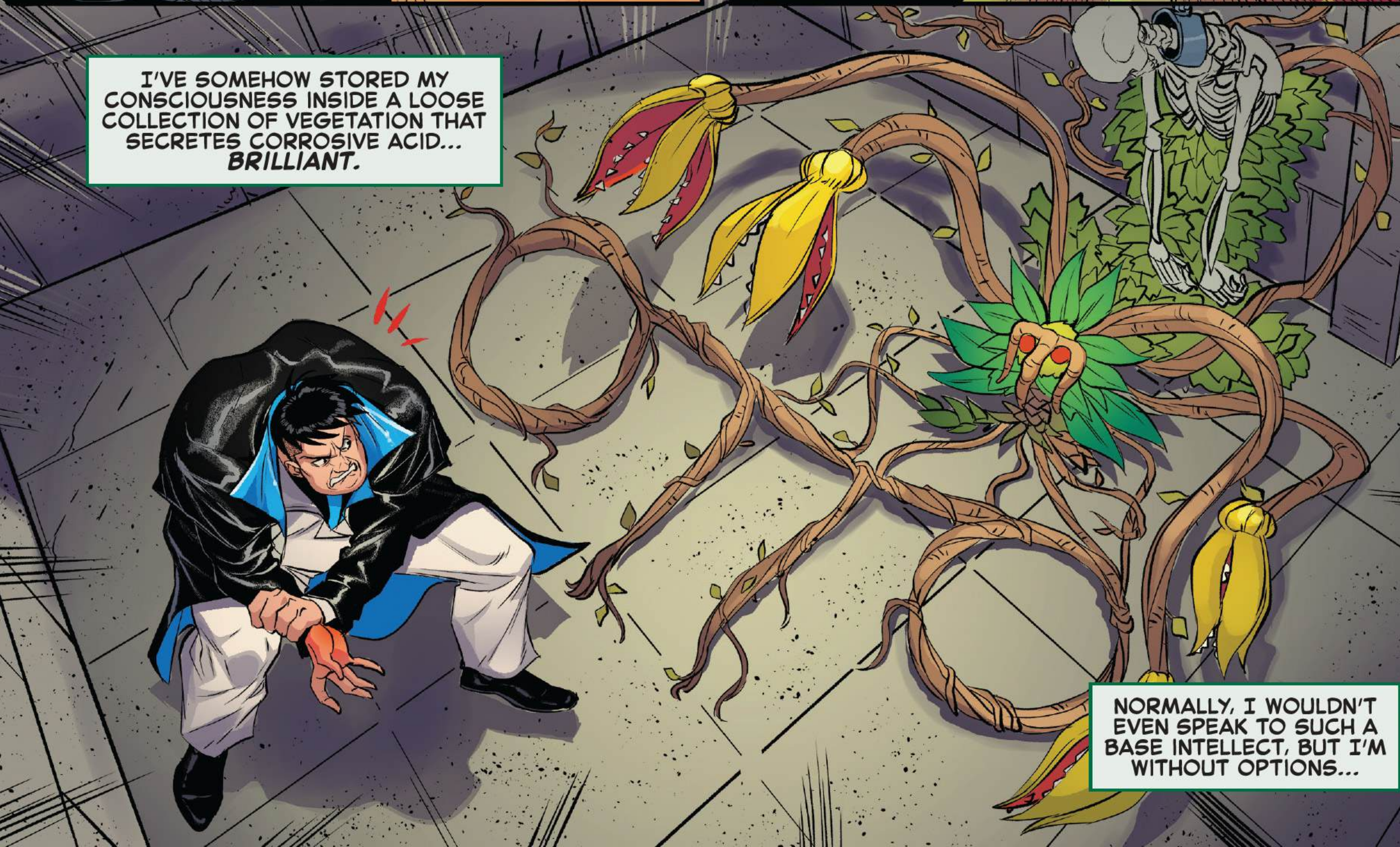
COULD IT BE?
IS THIS...ME?

OTTO...



IT RESPONDS TO OUR NAME--
OTTO OCTAVIUS.

SIZZLE



I'VE SOMEHOW STORED MY CONSCIOUSNESS INSIDE A LOOSE COLLECTION OF VEGETATION THAT SECRETES CORROSIVE ACID...
BRILLIANT.

NORMALLY, I WOULDN'T EVEN SPEAK TO SUCH A BASE INTELLECT, BUT I'M WITHOUT OPTIONS...



...THIS IS PURELY TACTICAL.

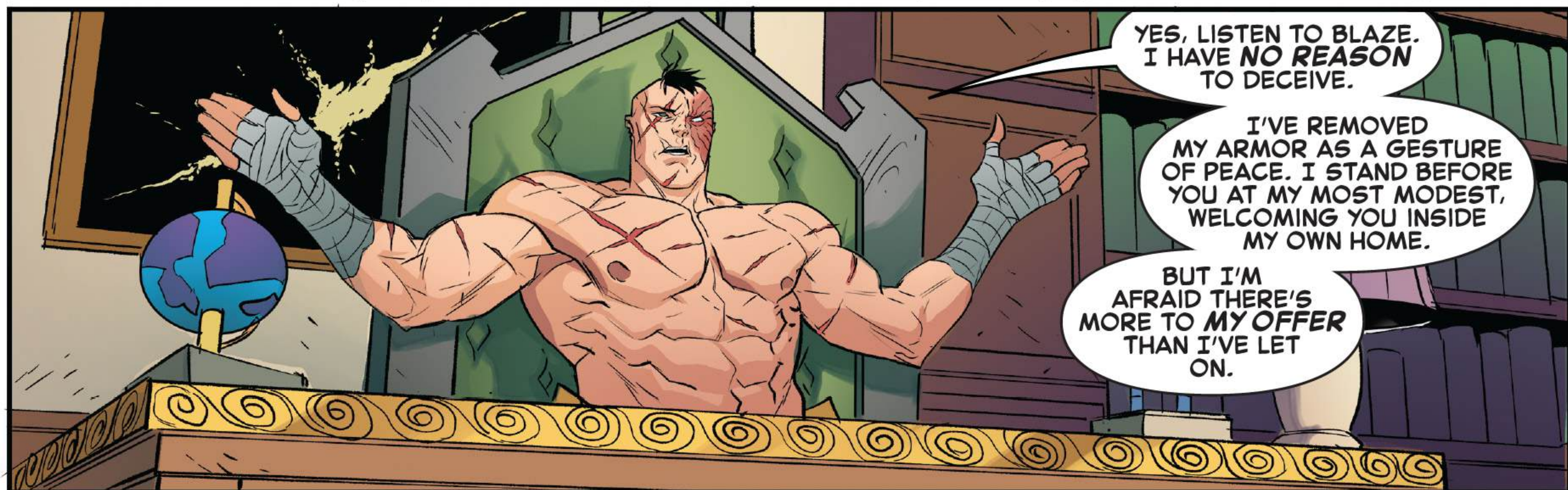
YOU SEE, THE ARMY OF OCKS **DIES** AT MY FEET. THE QUEST YOU'VE EMBARKED ON IS **BOTH** A SUCCESS AND A FAILURE.



WAIT, THIS IS **REAL**? WE ACTUALLY START A MULTIVERSAL WAR?

IT'S MERELY AN IMAGE, HOWLETT. IMAGES CAN LIE.

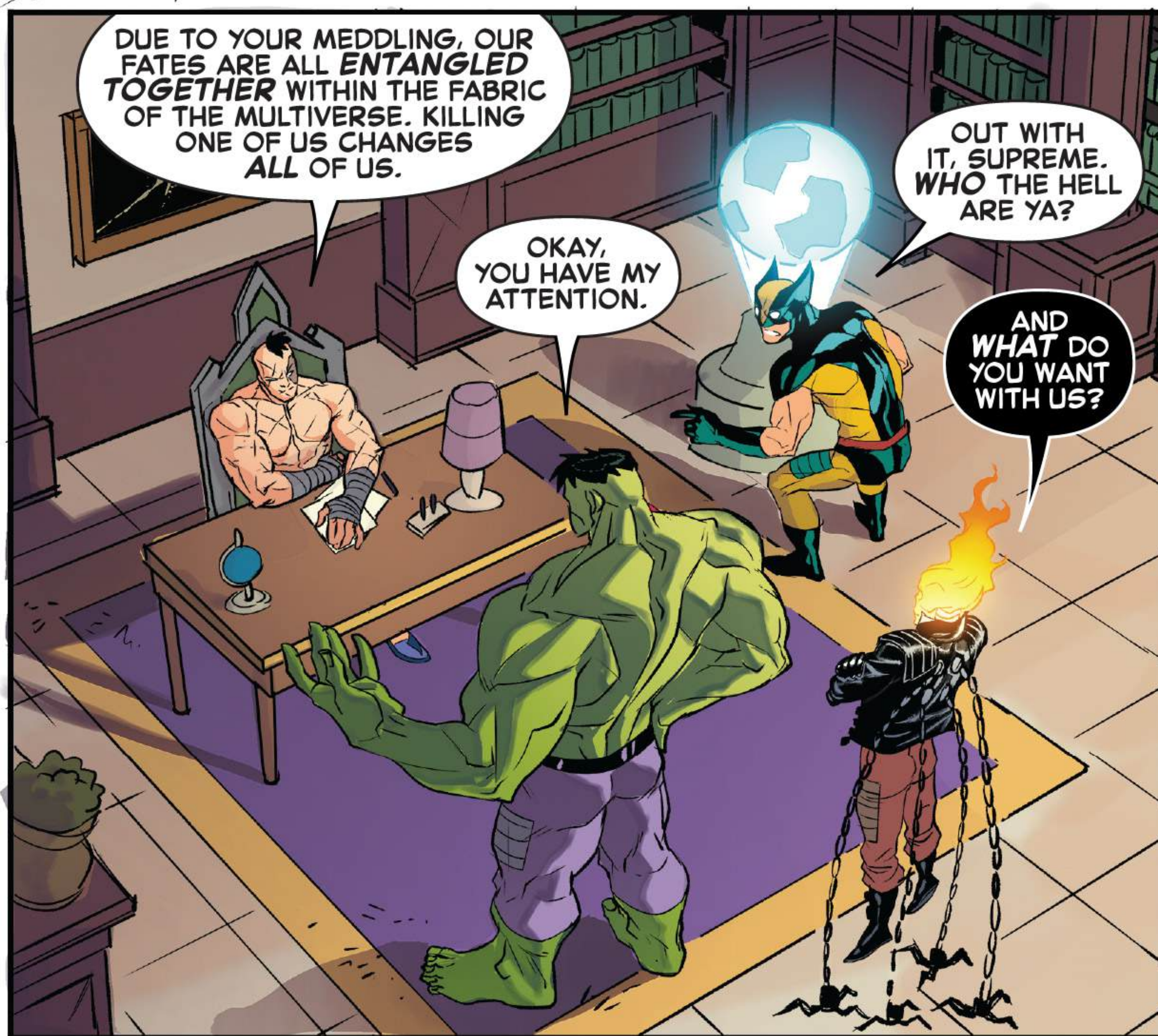
BUT ACTIONS DO NOT. **SUPREME** PULLED US FROM THAT TSUNAMI AND ONTO HIS EARTH. WHY LIE?



YES, LISTEN TO BLAZE. I HAVE **NO REASON** TO DECEIVE.

I'VE REMOVED MY ARMOR AS A GESTURE OF PEACE. I STAND BEFORE YOU AT MY MOST MODEST, WELCOMING YOU INSIDE MY OWN HOME.

BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S MORE TO **MY OFFER** THAN I'VE LET ON.



DUE TO YOUR MEDDLING, OUR FATES ARE ALL **ENTANGLED TOGETHER** WITHIN THE FABRIC OF THE MULTIVERSE. KILLING ONE OF US CHANGES **ALL** OF US.

OKAY, YOU HAVE MY ATTENTION.

OUT WITH IT, SUPREME. WHO THE HELL ARE YA?

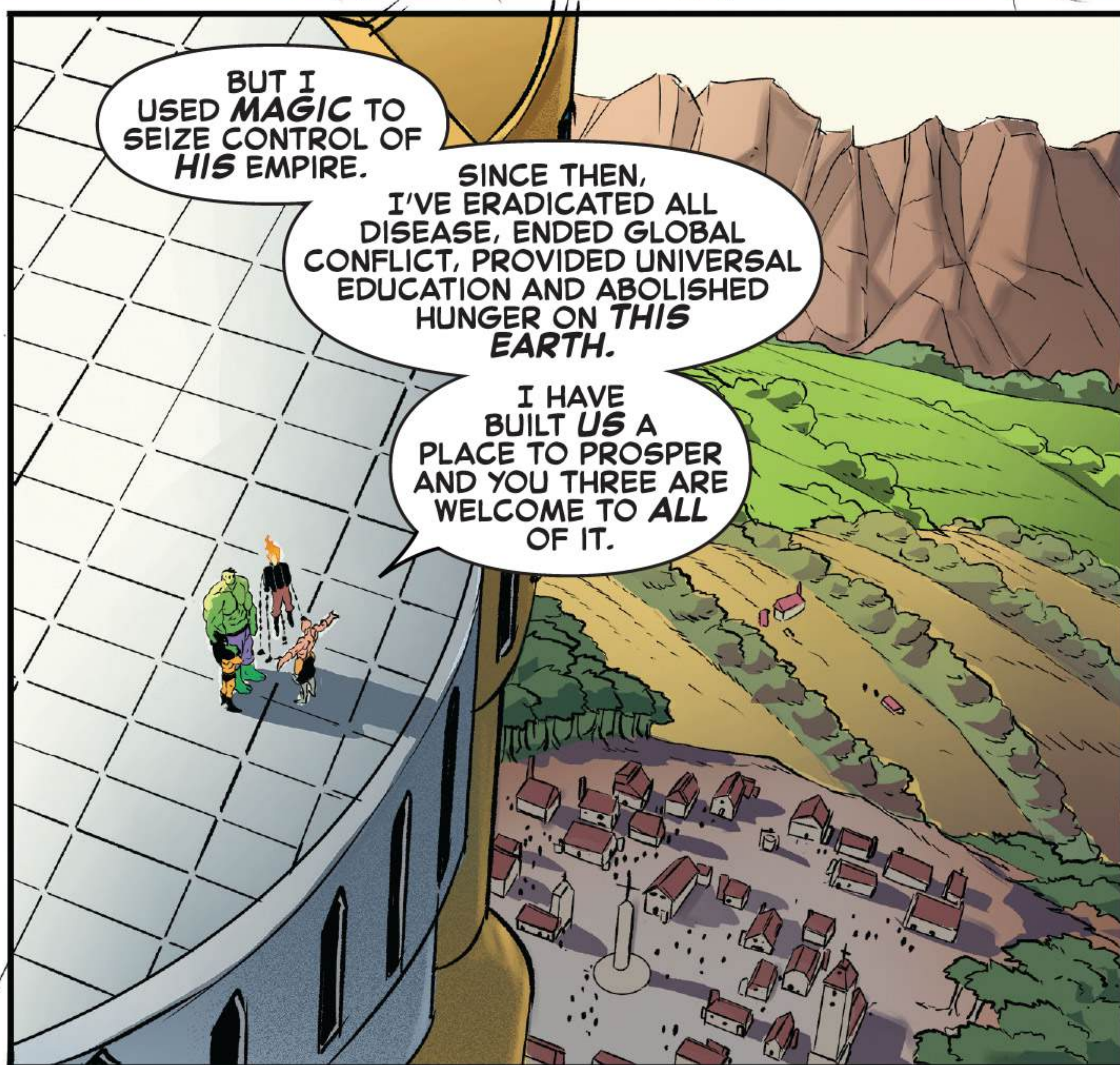
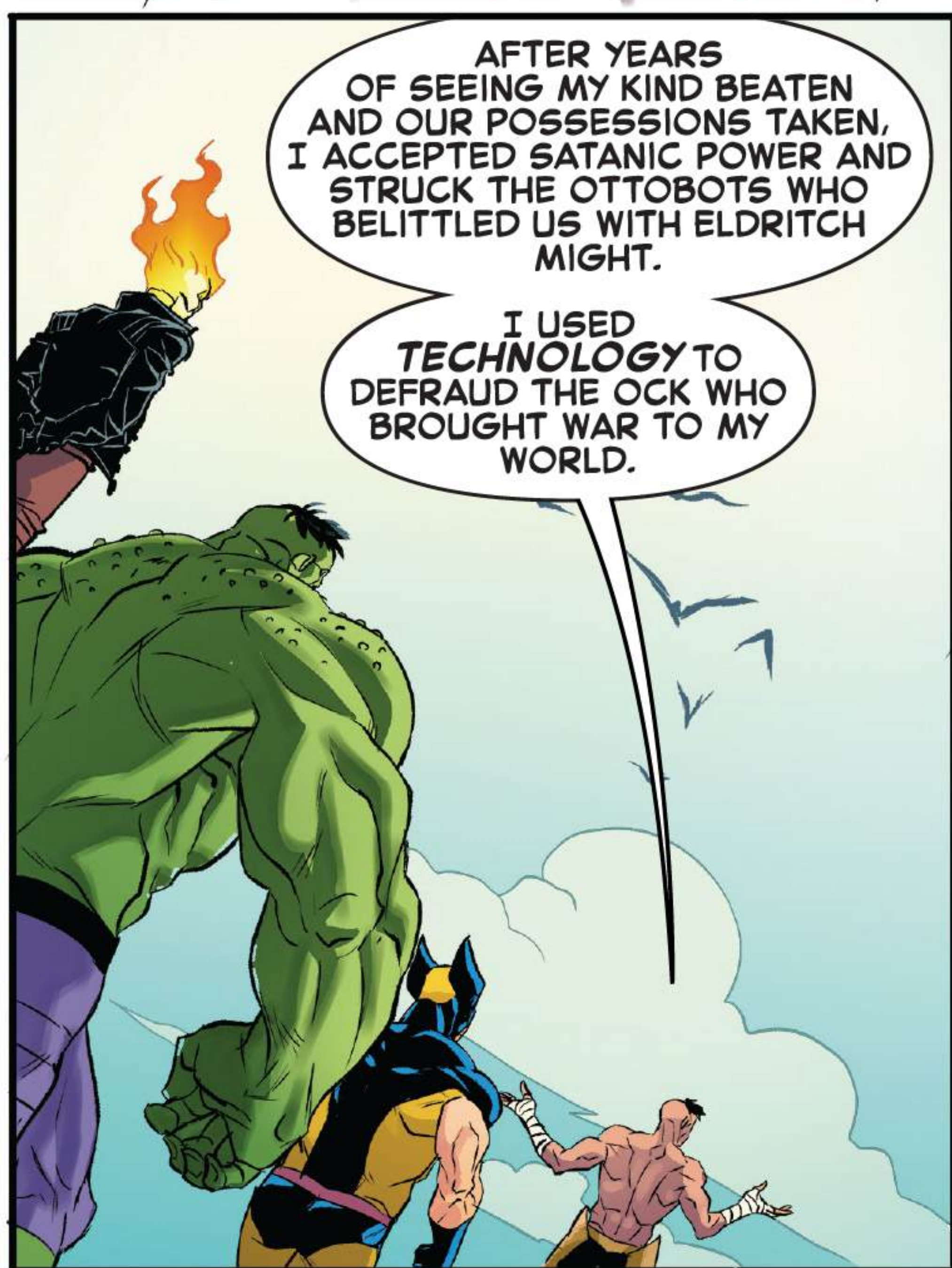
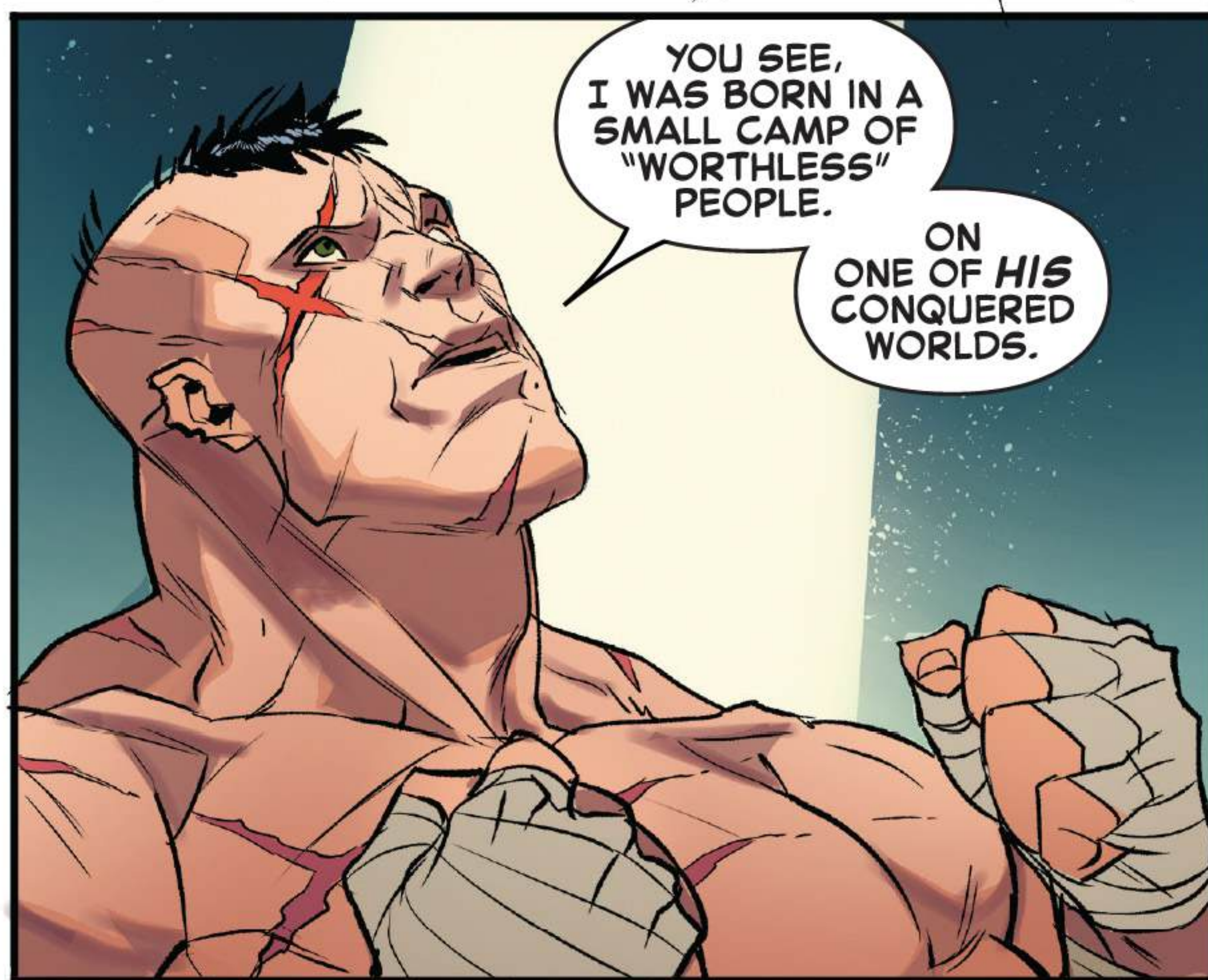
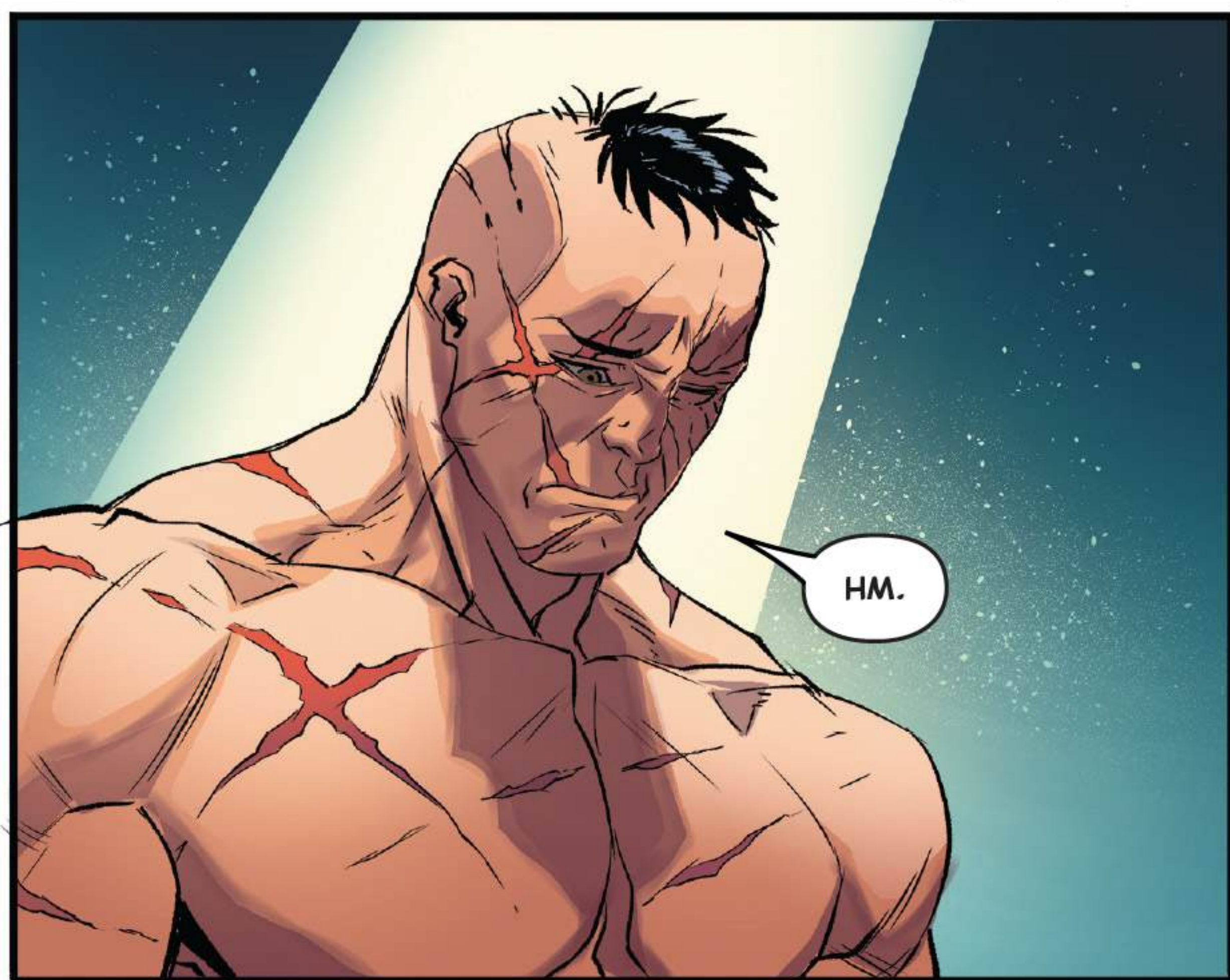
AND **WHAT** DO YOU WANT WITH US?

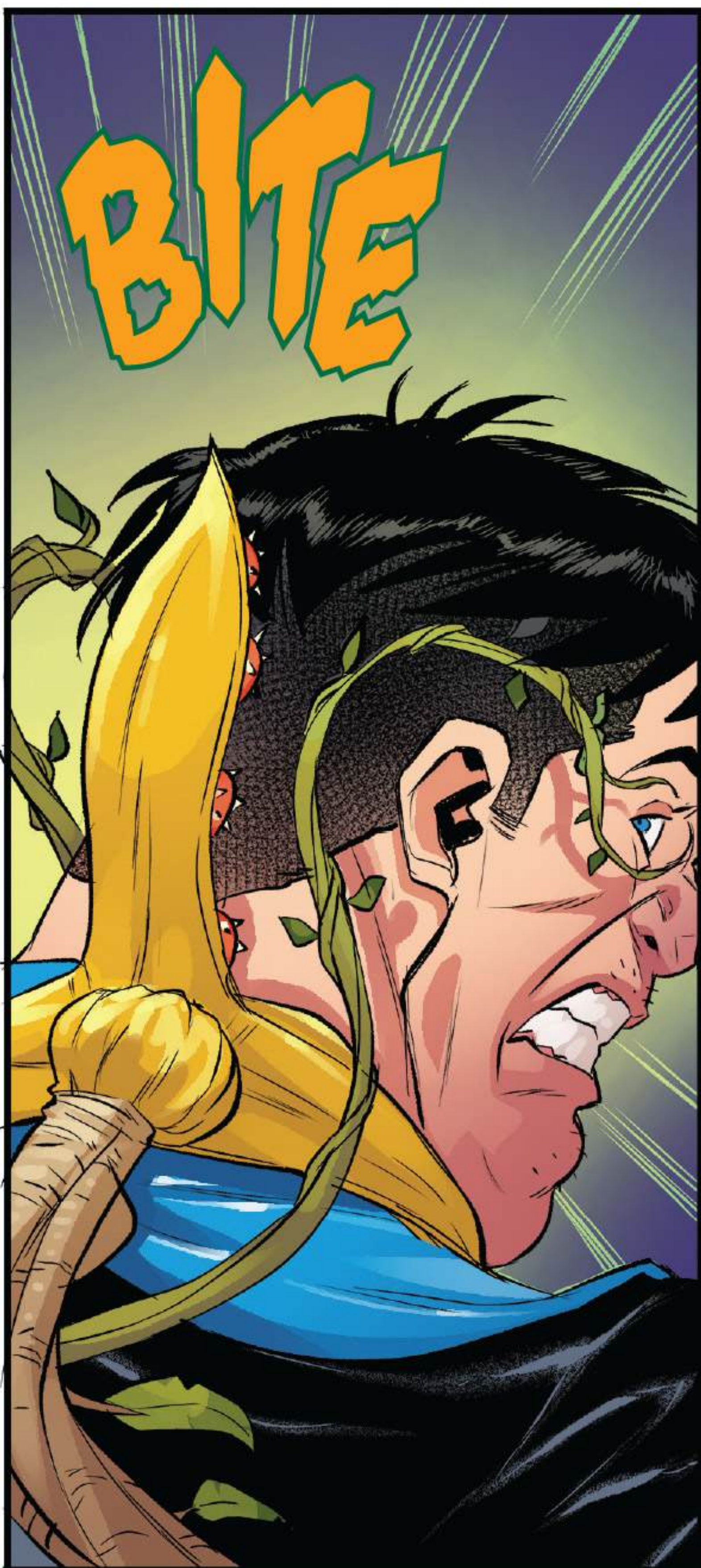
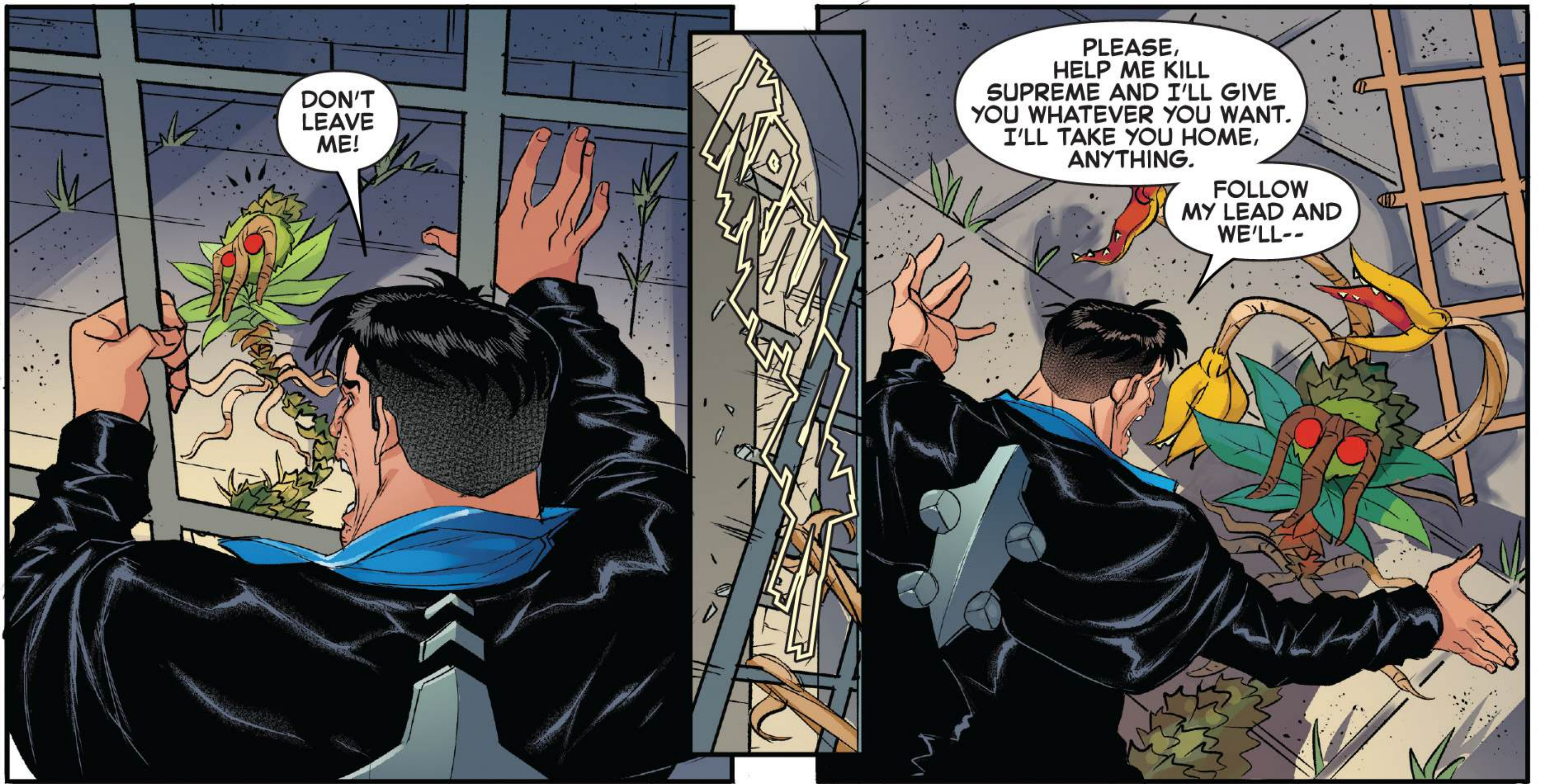


MY NAME IS **OTTO WERNER VON STRANGE**. I AM THE **LAST** REMAINING VARIANT FROM A LONG AND TIRELESS WAR.

I MAINTAIN BALANCE WITHIN OUR MULTIVERSAL EXISTENCE.

AND MY POSITION REQUIRES AN **HEIR...OR** HEIRS.







EVERY OTTO WHO TAKES A STEP TOWARD THE MULTIVERSE THREATENS TOPPLING WHAT I'VE BUILT.



NOW THAT WE'VE **BONDED**, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU **SEEK**.

HELP ME NAVIGATE THIS BLASTED **SANCTUM SANCTORUM** AND I PROMISE YOU, IT WILL BE DONE.



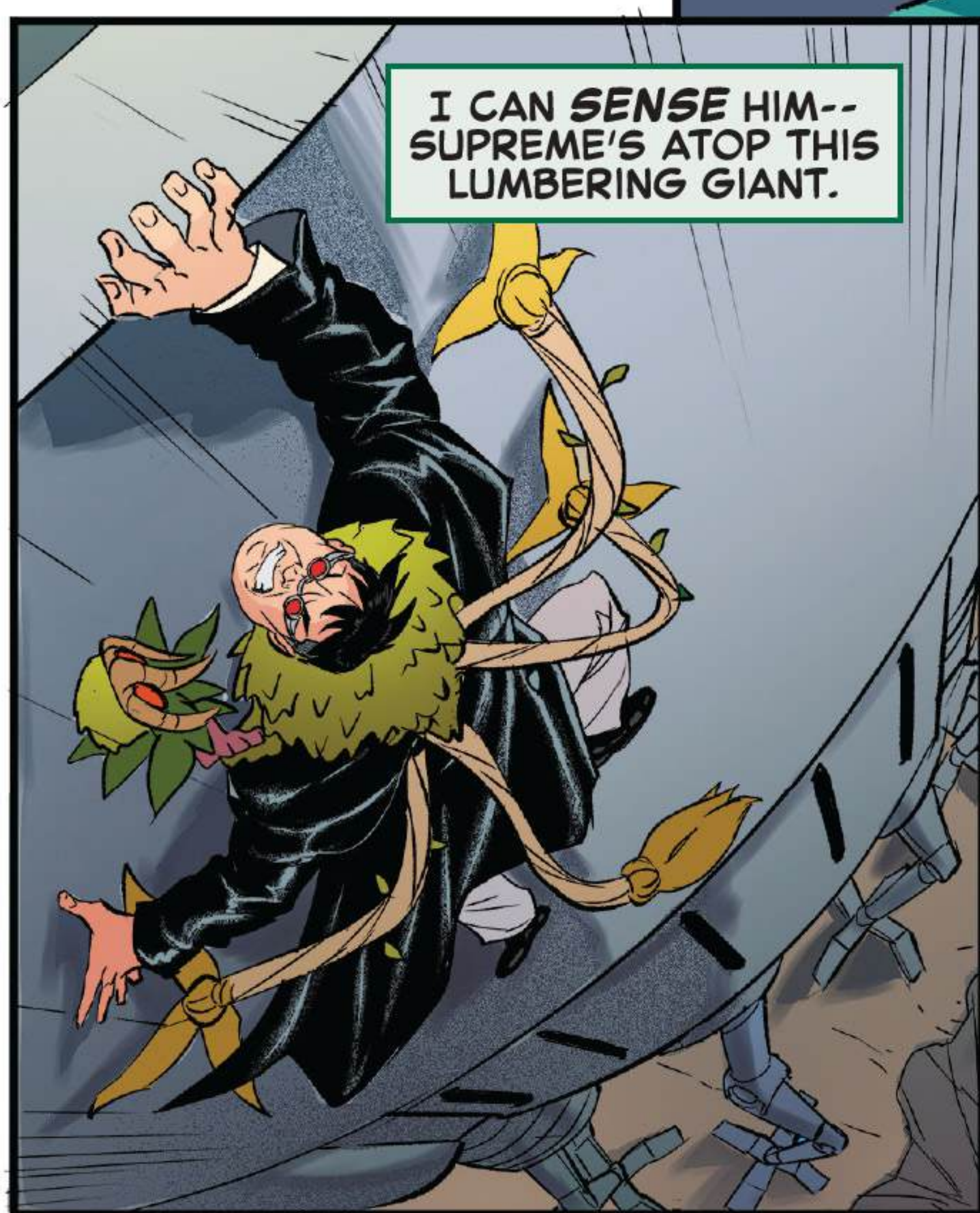
IN THE YEARS SINCE THE WAR, I'VE HELD A DELICATE POSITION OF NON-INTERFERENCE...

...PERHAPS MY PASSIVITY CAUSED THE CYCLE TO BEGIN ANEW.

SO YOU'RE ASKING US TO STAY **HERE** WITH YOU?

YOU WANT HELP KEEPIN' THE OTHER OCKS IN LINE?

IN A WORD, **YES**. THE COST OF ANOTHER MULTIVERSAL WAR WOULD BE UNFATHOMABLY HIGH.



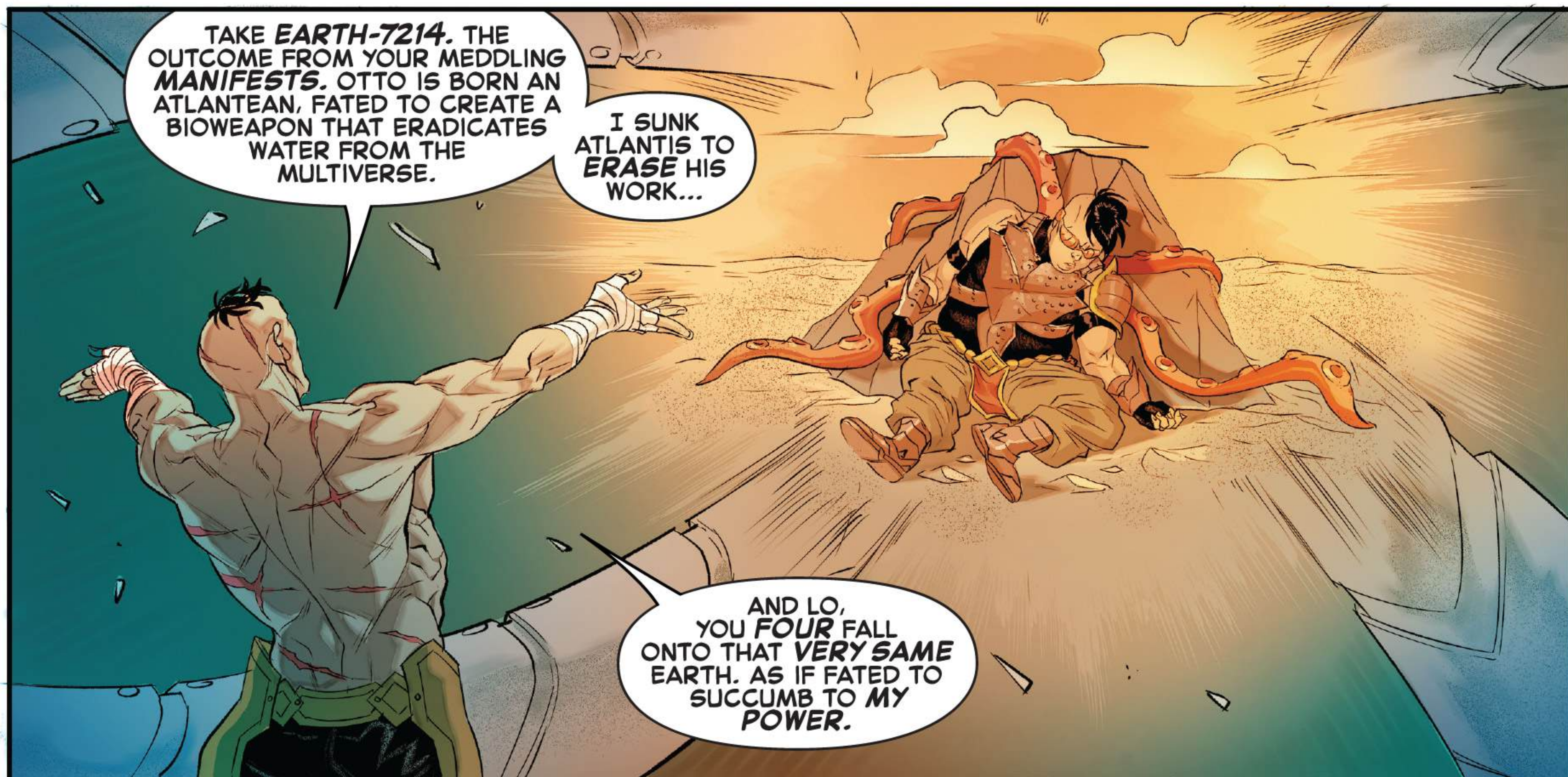
I CAN **SENSE** HIM-- SUPREME'S ATOP THIS LUMBERING GIANT.

TO REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE REACHING FOR...

...I NEED YOU THREE TO **SEE** THE MULTIVERSE AS I SEE IT.

I HAVE ENDURED DECADES OF EXPERIMENTATION AND LOSS. ALL TO **CONTROL** THIS STRUCTURE WITH MY MIND AND HAVE ACCESS TO **ALL WORLDS**.

BELIEVE ME, I'M HERE TO SAVE **US** FROM OURSELVES.



TAKE **EARTH-7214**. THE OUTCOME FROM YOUR MEDDLING **MANIFESTS**. OTTO IS BORN AN ATLANTEAN, FATED TO CREATE A BIOWEAPON THAT ERADICATES WATER FROM THE MULTIVERSE.

I SUNK ATLANTIS TO **ERASE** HIS WORK...

AND LO, YOU **FOUR** FALL ONTO THAT **VERY SAME** EARTH. AS IF FATED TO SUCCUMB TO MY **POWER**.



I COMMEND YOU-- AS THE **SUPERIOR HULK**, YOU'VE **TAMED** THE JADE GIANT.

BUT THE **RADIATION BOMB** YOU'LL CREATE TO REGAIN YOUR HUMANITY WILL KILL MILLIONS.

HOW COULD YOU KNOW MY **PLANS**...?



YOU CALL YOURSELF THE **SUPERIOR GHOST RIDER**, AND YET, YOU FAIL TO ENACT VENGEANCE ON A SOCIETAL SCALE.

BILLIONAIRES, POLLUTERS AND WARLORDS RULE AS YOU USE YOUR POWERS FOR PETTY TORMENT.

I AM BUT A CONDUIT FOR VENGEANCE. NOT A HERO.



SUPERIOR WOLVERINE, I HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF RESPECT FOR YOUR EXPLOITS. YOU'VE MANAGED TO KILL **EVERYONE**.

BUT LOGAN IS **MORE** THAN A BRUTE. HE IS A TEACHER, A LOVER, AN ADVENTURER. YOU ARE MERELY A BORED **CO-PILOT**.

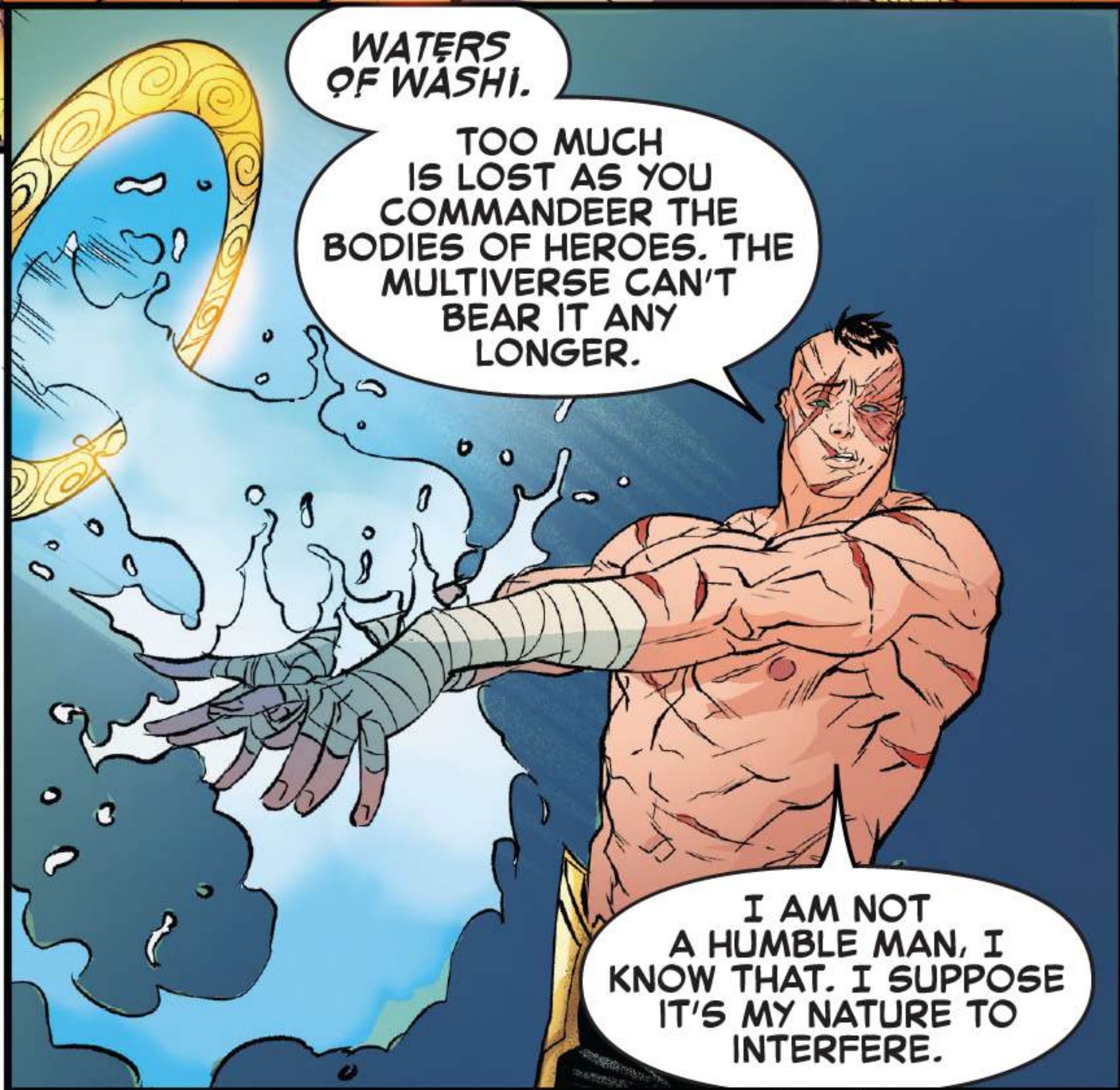
YOU WANT SCARS THAT WON'T HEAL?



TOO MANY WORLDS HAVE SUFFERED FROM YOUR COLLECTIVE OBSESSION WITH CONQUEST.

YOU ALL NEED TO BE **RESET!**

CALM YOUR NERVES WITHIN THE **CRIMSON BANDS OF CYTTORAK!**



WATERS OF WASHI.

TOO MUCH IS LOST AS YOU COMMANDEER THE BODIES OF HEROES. THE MULTIVERSE CAN'T BEAR IT ANY LONGER.

I AM NOT A HUMBLE MAN, I KNOW THAT. I SUPPOSE IT'S MY NATURE TO INTERFERE.



BLADE OF BAWK. CUTS THROUGH ANYTHING.

YOU VARIANTS MUST BE RETURNED TO YOUR ORIGINAL FORMS!



MRGH. DO IT. GUGH.

A SIMPLE LOBOTOMY SHOULD SUFFICE.

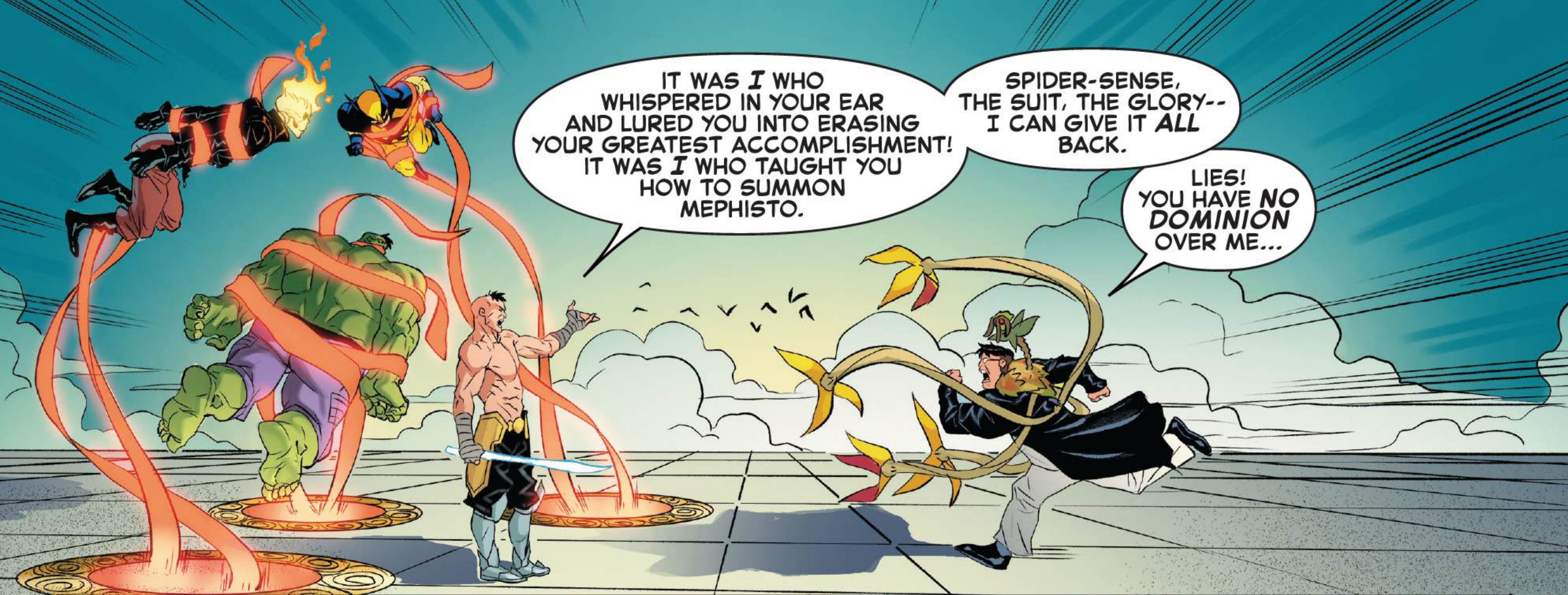


YOU'VE TAMPERED ENOUGH!

OTTO? YOU'VE--

...DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE. YET AGAIN.

FINE. CEASE YOUR MEDDLING AND I WILL REMAKE YOU INTO THE **SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.**



IT WAS *I* WHO WHISPERED IN YOUR EAR AND LURED YOU INTO ERASING YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT! IT WAS *I* WHO TAUGHT YOU HOW TO SUMMON MEPHISTO.

SPIDER-SENSE, THE SUIT, THE GLORY-- I CAN GIVE IT ALL BACK.

LIES! YOU HAVE NO DOMINION OVER ME...



I DON'T NEED SORCERY! I CAN SENSE YOUR FEAR!

I MIXED MY BLOOD WITH THE SOIL OF *THE GUTTED GULCH* IN EARTH-5069. NOT ONLY TO HARVEST A BLOOD-PARASITE...

...BUT TO LEAVE A MULTIVERSAL CONTINGENCY PLAN.



ONE DROP OF ME INTRODUCED INTO A FERTILE BIOLOGICAL WASTELAND WAS ENOUGH TO EVOLVE A SET OF ARMS!

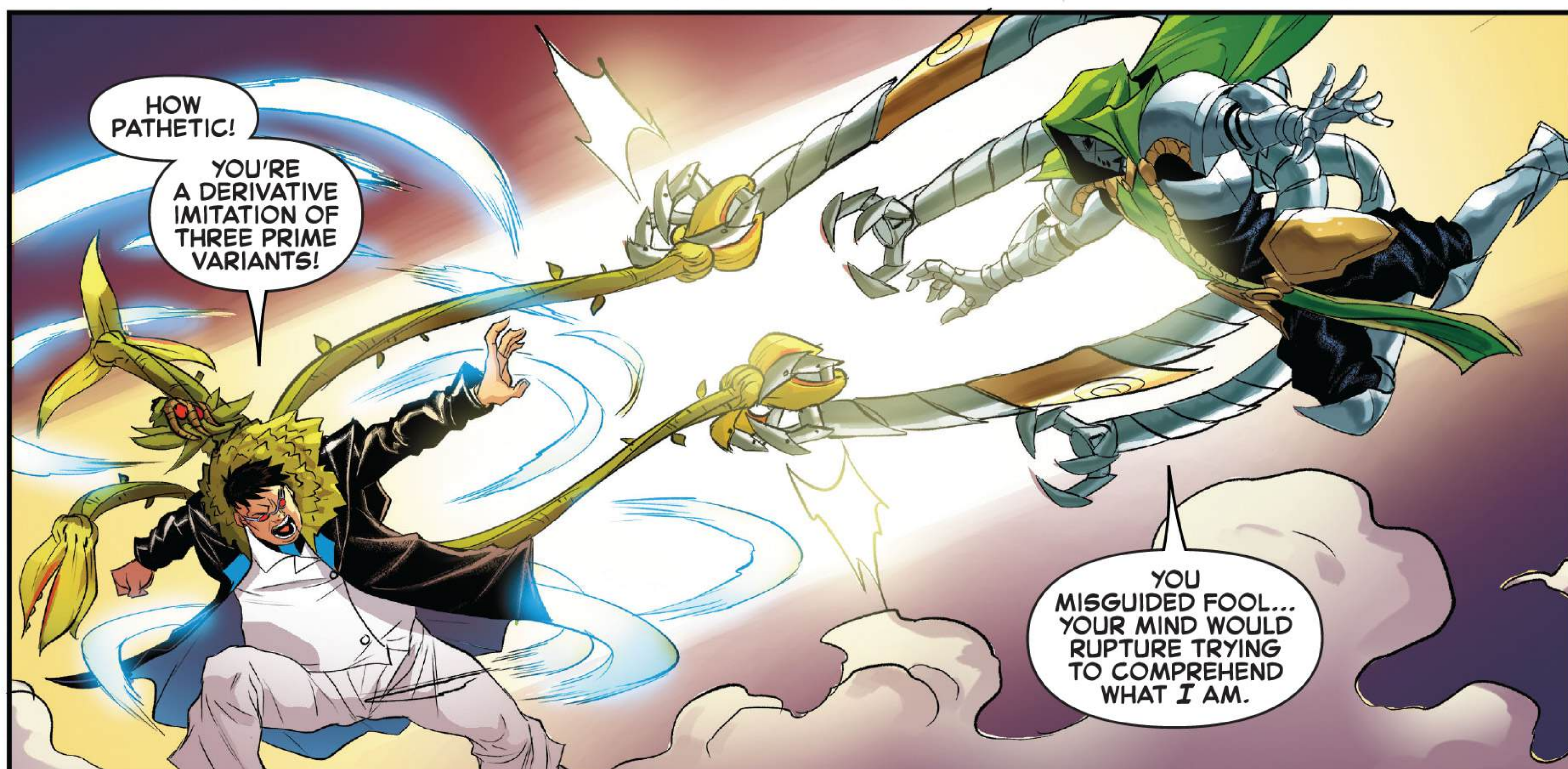
THIS CREATURE TRAVELED THE MULTIVERSE AND FOUND ME IN THAT CELL.

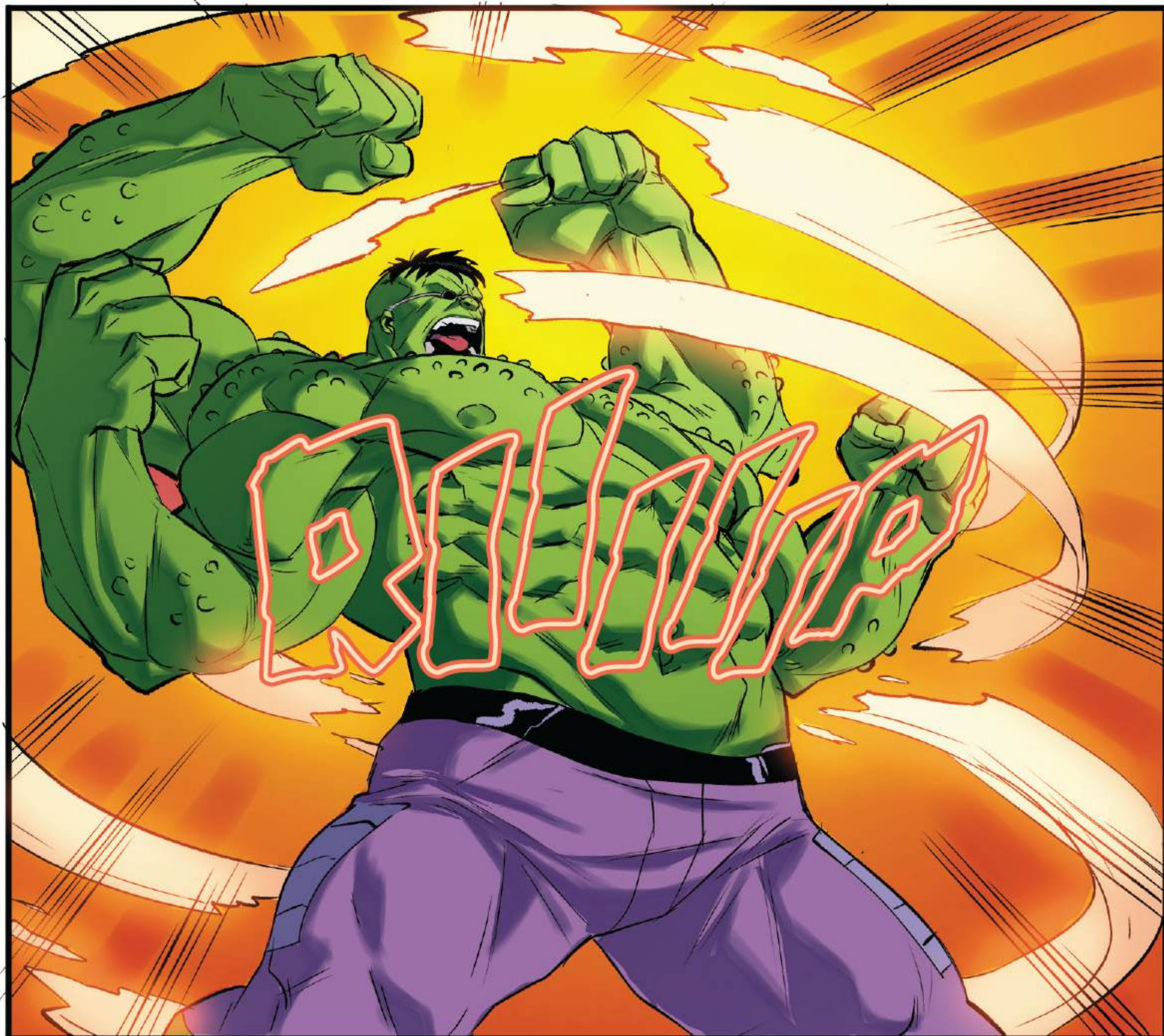
AND ALL YOU CAN OFFER ME ARE THE ASHES OF THE PAST!

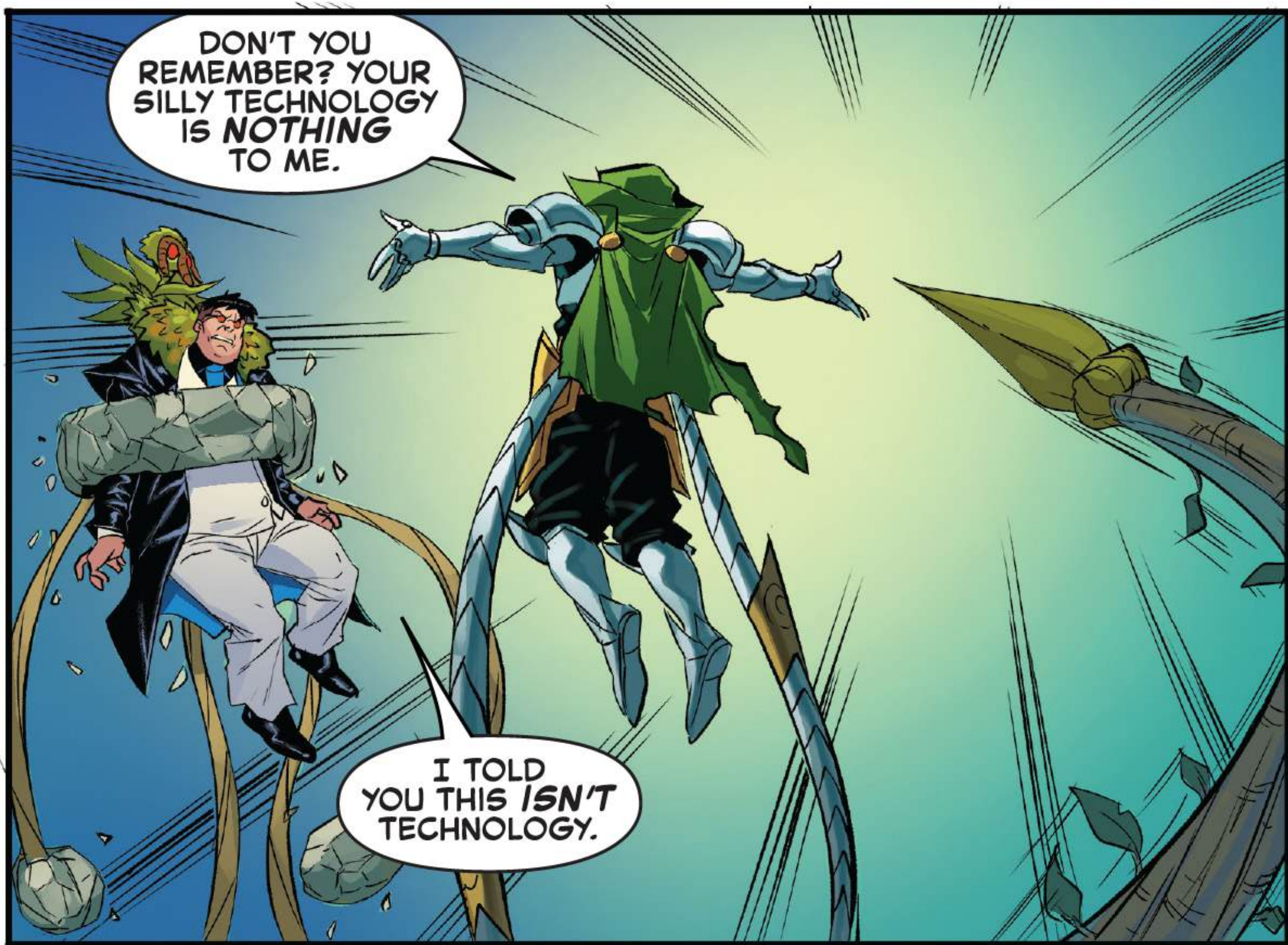
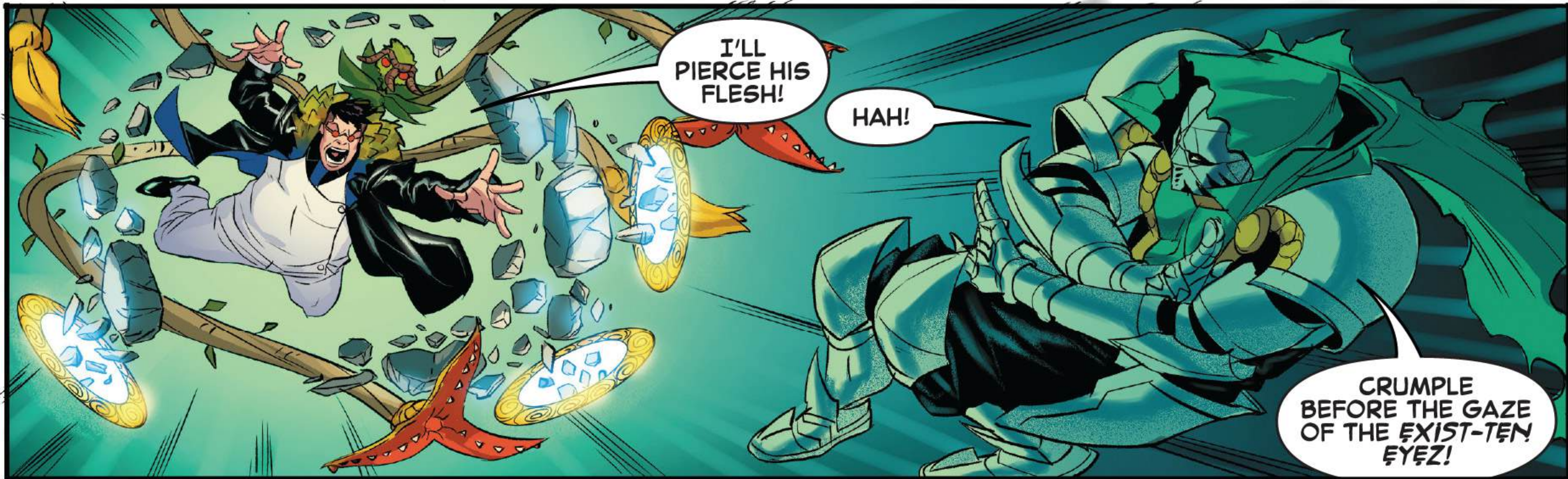


ENOUGH GLOATING, YOU DIMWITTED CLOWN!

SUBMIT TO SAPPHIRE BANDS OF STORAAN!







I HOLD
HIS BRAIN IN
MY PALM.

THE CORROSIVE ACID OF
MY SLITHERING GRASP EATS
THROUGH HIS MIND. I CAN'T
RESIST RELISHING HIS FEAR...

I SEE...

...BUT
I MUST LET
GO.





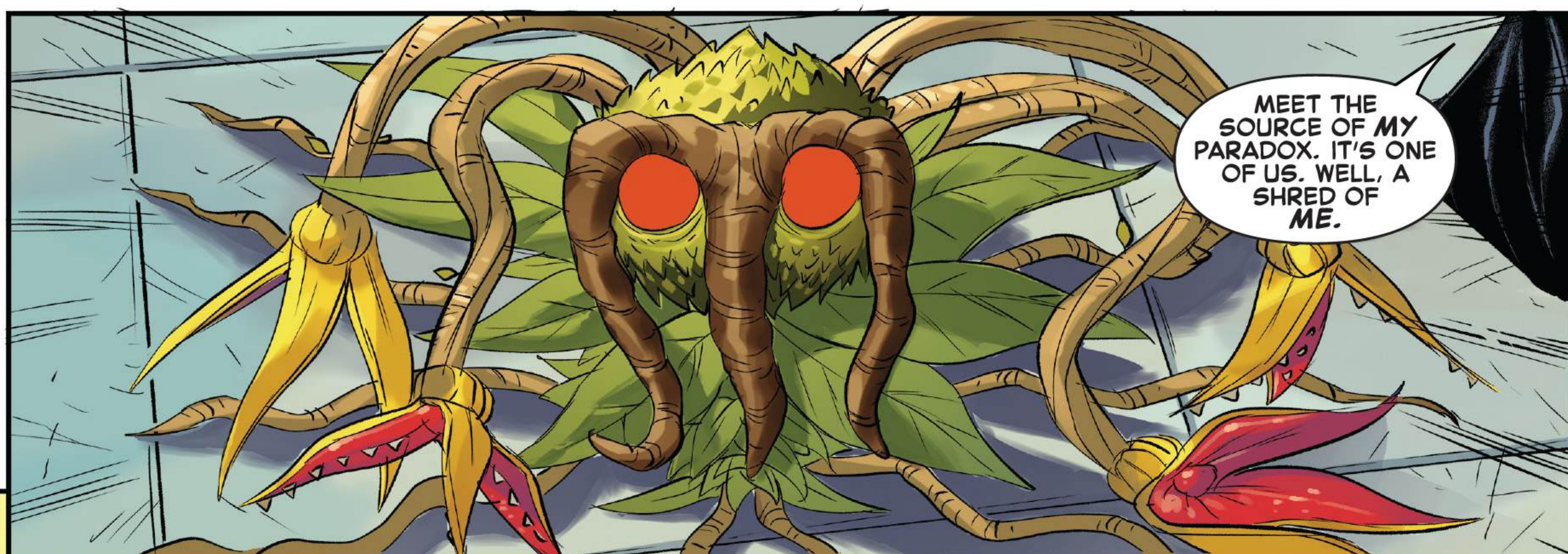
WE BURNED THROUGH THE CONNECTION TO HIS PREFRONTAL CORTEX.



WE?



I KNEEL BEFORE YOU, AS YOUR *EQUAL*, HUMBLLED.



MEET THE SOURCE OF MY PARADOX. IT'S ONE OF US. WELL, A SHRED OF ME.

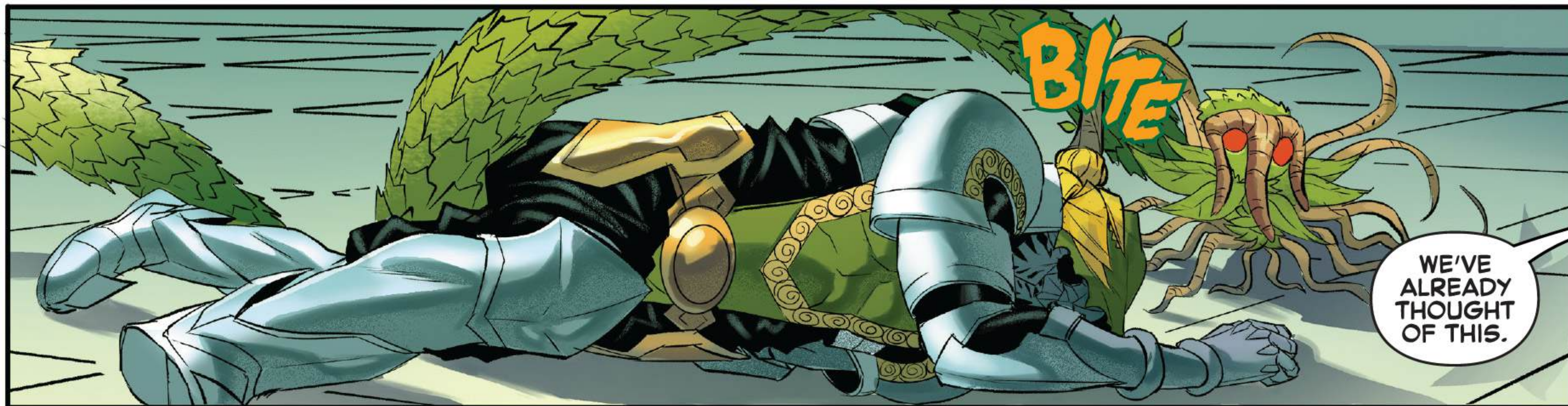


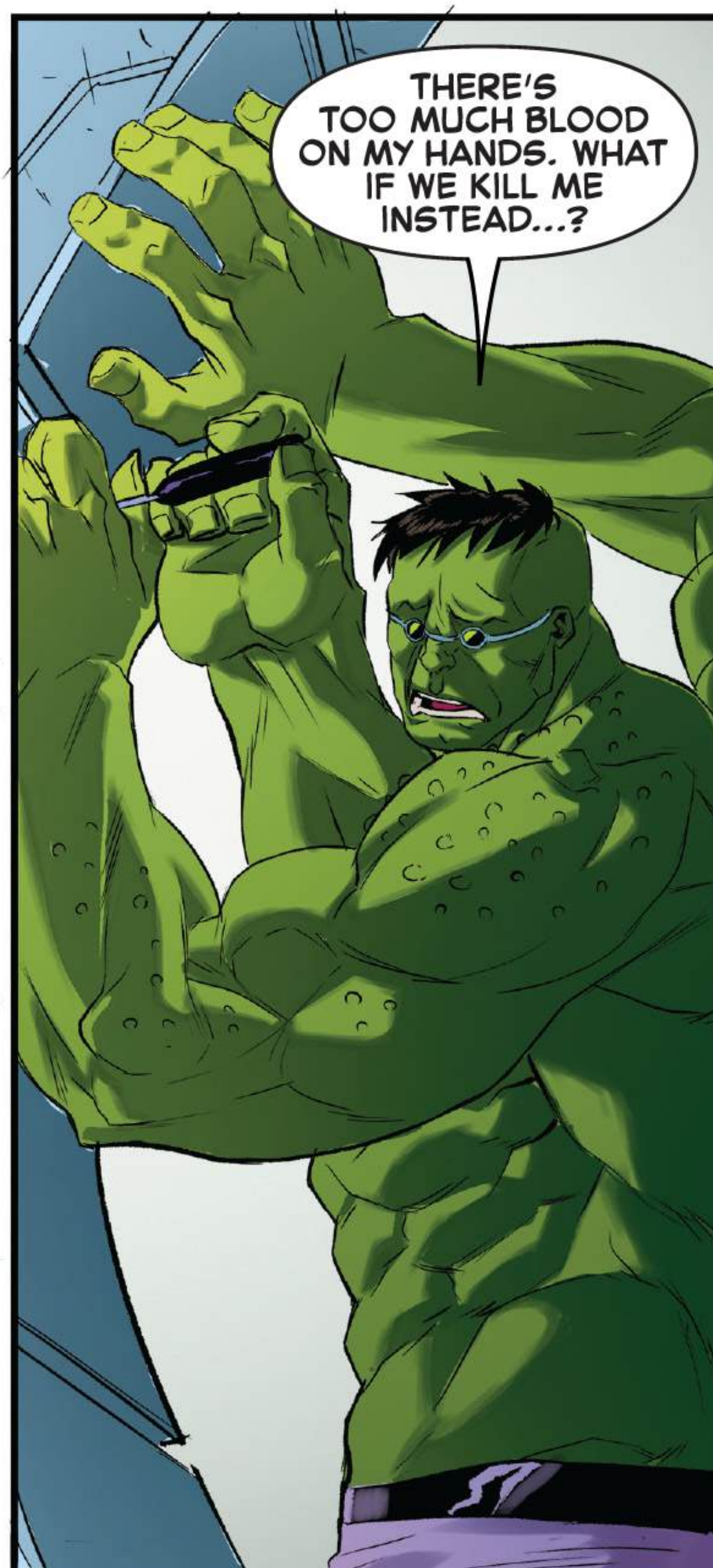
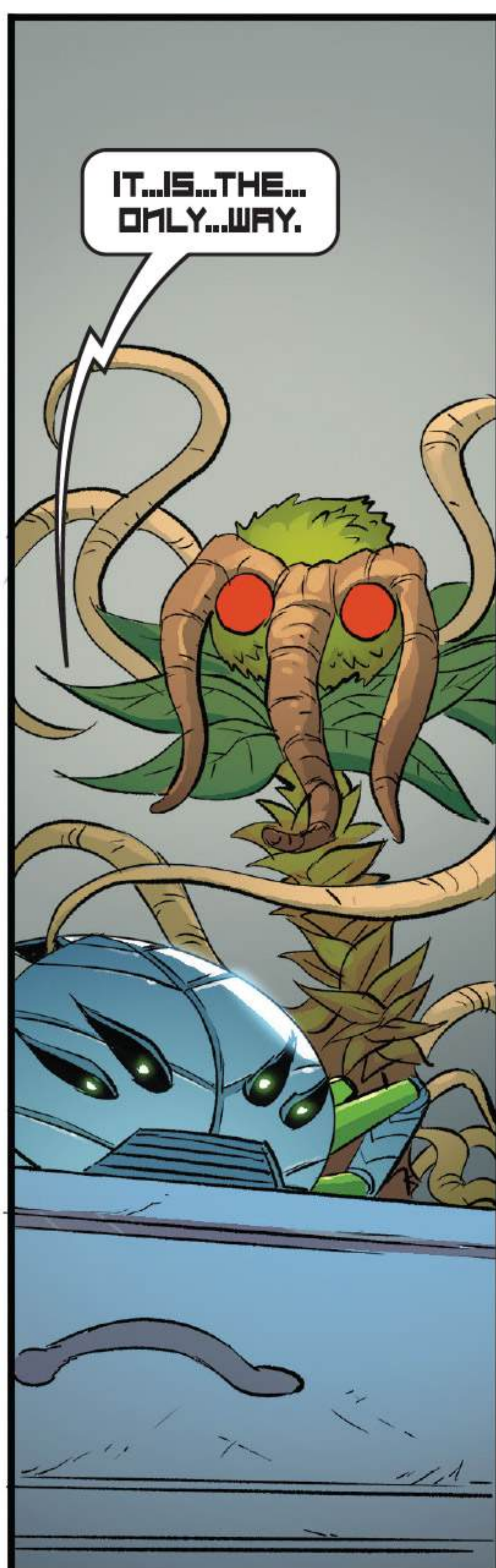
BRILLIANT. THOUGH I PREDICTED YOU'D CREATE THIS MESS, I SUPPOSE WE OWE YOU THANKS.

VULNERABILITY MAKES US HUMAN, OTTO. WISH I HAD KNOWN THAT BEFORE BECOMING THE IMMORTAL HULK.

THERE ARE WORSE MASTERS AND CRUELER FATES THAN A LIFE IN SERVICE OF SCIENCE. DEDICATE YOURSELF TO MECHANICAL APPENDAGES AND YOU'LL CHANGE THE--

HOW THE F#\$% ARE WE GONNA GET HOME NOW?







WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?

YOU CAN'T KNOW. IT'S IMPERATIVE I DO THIS ALONE.

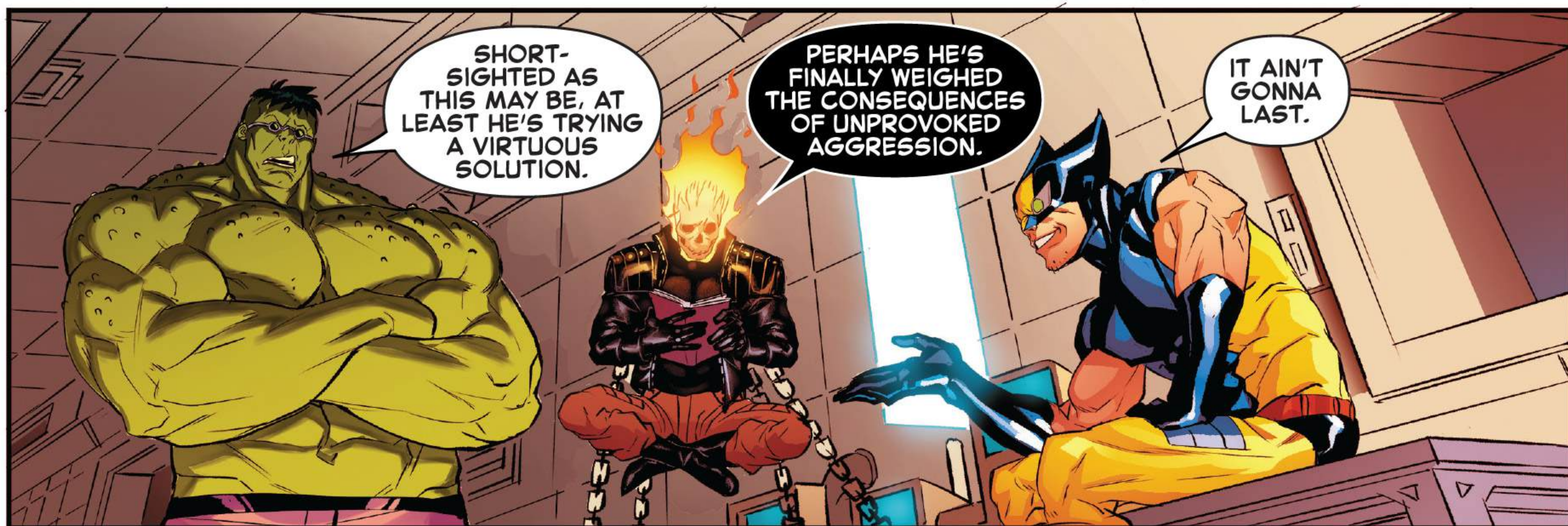
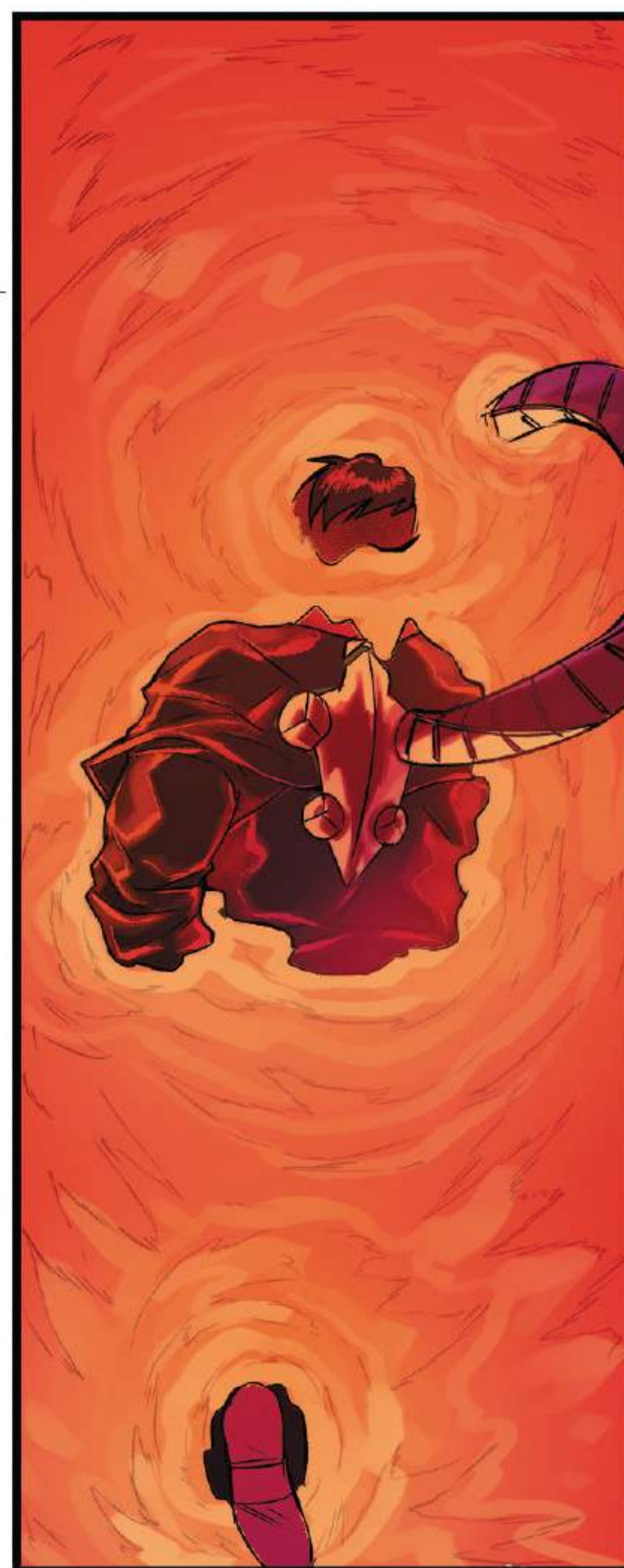
FINE. BUT I KNOW YOU BLUFFED ABOUT THE CREATION OF THAT CREATURE.



ALL STORIES ARE LIES, OTTO. I INFERRED A HYPOTHESIS AND SIMPLY STATED IT ALOUD.

IN ANY EVENT, **MY FATE** IS ENTWINED WITH THIS PARADOXICAL BEING NOW AND FOREVER.

GOOD...
BYE...



SHORT-SIGHTED AS THIS MAY BE, AT LEAST HE'S TRYING A VIRTUOUS SOLUTION.

PERHAPS HE'S FINALLY WEIGHED THE CONSEQUENCES OF UNPROVOKED AGGRESSION.

IT AIN'T GONNA LAST.



NOTHING LASTS.

THIS IS MERELY ONE STEP IN AN ENDLESS SISYPHEAN LOOP.

&##\$%,
SORRY I SAID ANYTHING.



MY INTELLECT SWELLS, I'VE OUTWITTED THIS INFURIATING CONUNDRUM.

ONE DAY, SUPREME MAY RECOVER AND COME FOR REVENGE. THERE CAN BE NO MORE ROOM FOR ERROR. IT'S TIME TO **THINK BIGGER.**

I KNOW YOU EACH WANT TO RETURN HOME BUT I HAVE A **COUNTEROFFER** YOU MAY FIND ENTICING.



I NEED YOUR HELP
RIDDING NEW YORK
CITY OF ALL
CRIME.

LET'S PROVE THE
SUPERIOR FOUR
ARE BETTER THAN THE
WRETCHED HEROES
WHO POLICE THIS
PLACE.

TOGETHER,
WE'LL SERVE AS
JUDGE, JURY AND
EXECUTIONERS.



THIS PILL WILL **DEVOLVE**
THE HULK. THE PROCESS WILL
BE AGONY, BUT IN THE END,
YOU'LL BE HUMAN.

THANK
YOU.



I'LL TRAVEL INTO **HELL** WITH
YOU. WE'LL RETRIEVE YOUR
SOUL AND FIND OUT WHAT
REALLY HAPPENED
TO MY MIND.

DEAL.



STAY IN **THIS**
WORLD AND YOU'D BE
A CITIZEN OF THE MUTANT
NATION-STATE **KRAKOA.**
I'LL SHOW YOU TO
THE GATES.

WITHIN WEEKS,
WE'LL WIELD UNTOLD
INTERNATIONAL
INFLUENCE.

I'M
LISTENING.



AN OTTOBOT AT THE PORT
NOTICED A BLACK MARKET
TRANSACTION OF
SAVAGE LAND BIOTECH.

WE DESCEND UPON THESE
GOONS--A HIVEMIND.
OUR 32 DIVINE LIMBS
FIGHT AS ONE.

A SMALL SCORE,
TO BE SURE. BUT
I'LL GLADLY USE IT
TO BEAT FISK AT
HIS OWN GAME.

FRESH FROND CITY.
EARTH-2902.

I WAS **WRONG**
TO PROVOKE THE
MULTIVERSE. I
WASN'T READY.

PERHAPS I HAVE
RADICALLY ALTERED
MY OWN **DESTINY**.

PERHAPS I DID
NOTHING MORE THAN
CAST A PEBBLE INTO
THE OCEAN.

PERHAPS THERE IS
NO POSITION FROM
WHICH THE ENTIRE
MULTIVERSE IS
OBSERVABLE.

OR I AM **NOT YET**
SUPERIOR TO THE
CEASELESS LOOP.

FOR NOW, I CAN
ONLY ENDEAVOR TO
INTERVENE WITH
CALCULATED RISK.

MY ACTIONS MAY
NOT REPLACE
WHAT WAS LOST.

BUT NO STEP A MAN
TAKES TOWARD DEFINING
A **NEW REALITY** IS TOO
MEAGER TO COUNT.

HE'S
BACK!

LOVE THE
FRESH LOOK,
SPIDEY!

THE END.

DR

SPIDER-MAN



BEN REILLY has the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a **SPIDER**, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "**SPIDER-SENSE**"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, **BEN REILLY** understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

SPIDER-MAN

DEVIL'S REIGN

THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE BEFORE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #86!

With **PETER PARKER** in the hospital, his clone Ben Reilly has taken on the mantle of Spider-Man. Backed by the **BEYOND CORPORATION** and their Head of Super Hero Development, **MAXINE DANGER**, Ben has access to all the things your friendly neighborhood Spider-Man could only dream of: a swanky apartment that he shares with his girlfriend, **JANINE GODBE**, an upgraded Spidey-suit, and a brilliant support team led by **MARCUS MOMPLAISIR**.

But even Beyond couldn't protect Spider-Man when New York City Mayor **WILSON FISK**--the former kingpin of crime--enacted a reign of terror targeting every costumed vigilante in the city. Fisk's team of super-villainous **THUNDERBOLTS**, acting alongside the NYPD, arrested Spider-Man after two of the Thunderbolts, **WHIPLASH** and **TASKMASTER**, gave him a thorough thrashing. **FANTASTIC FOUR** members the **THING** and the **HUMAN TORCH** sprang Ben from the precinct, but the streets of New York still aren't safe for a masked hero...

IN THE BATTLE TO CLAIM
NEW YORK, THE ONLY THING
THAT HAS SEPARATED THE
WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS
IS WHICH SIDE OF THE
LAW YOU'RE ON.

WHERE'S
SPIDER-
MAN?

FOR THE LONGEST
TIME, THE "SUPERS"
HAVE HAD THE LEGAL
SCALES TIPPED IN
THEIR FAVOR.

I NEED
TO SEE HIM
RIGHT
NOW!

HE'S
ALREADY GONE!
AND YOUR ROCK AND
FIRE BUDDIES BLEW A
HOLE IN OUR WALL
TO TAKE HIM.

BUT GLAD
YOU'RE HERE--
YOU CAN TELL US
SPIDER-MAN'S
REAL NAME!

BUT WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN THE GOOD
GUYS ARE NOW THE
CRIMINALS?

I'M SORRY.
I MUST BE AT
THE WRONG
PRECINCT.



THE FISKS HAVE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE MAKINGS OF A GOOD CROOK AND A GOOD POLITICIAN LIE IN ONE'S ADEPTNESS AT SKIRTING THE LAW...

...WHICH IS WHY LAWYERS MAKE THE BEST OF BOTH.

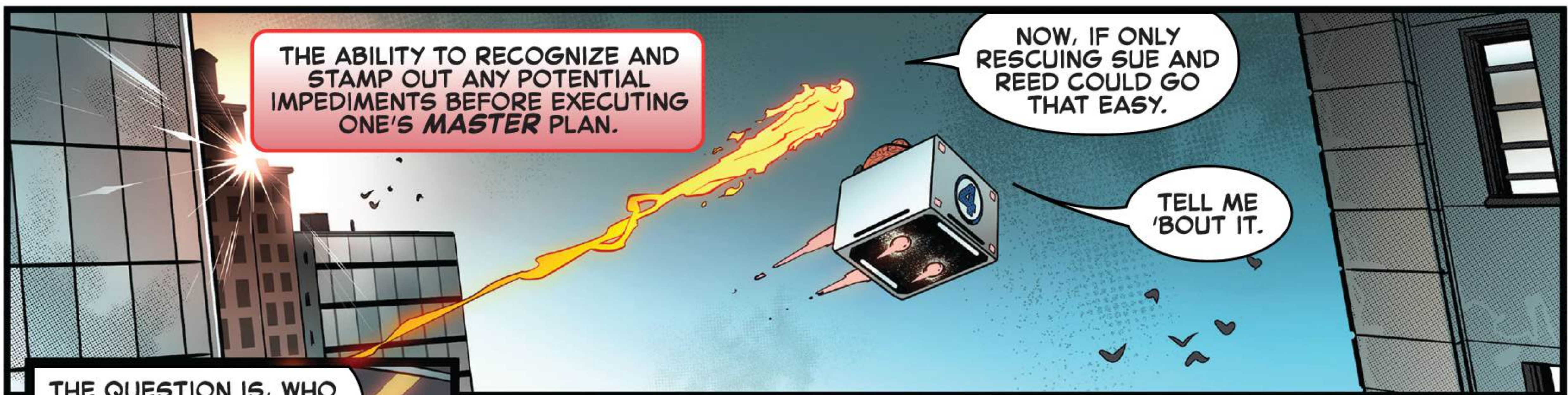
SURE YOU'RE GOOD, PAL?

DON'T WORRY. BEYOND WILL TAKE CARE OF ME.



THANKS AGAIN, GUYS.

BUT TO BE ABLE TO CALL ONESELF A TRUE CRIMINAL MASTERMIND, ONE MUST POSSESS EXCEPTIONAL FORESIGHT.



THE ABILITY TO RECOGNIZE AND STAMP OUT ANY POTENTIAL IMPEDIMENTS BEFORE EXECUTING ONE'S MASTER PLAN.

NOW, IF ONLY RESCUING SUE AND REED COULD GO THAT EASY.

TELL ME 'BOUT IT.



THE QUESTION IS, WHO AM I ABOUT TO GET IT FROM WORSE? JANINE OR MAXINE?

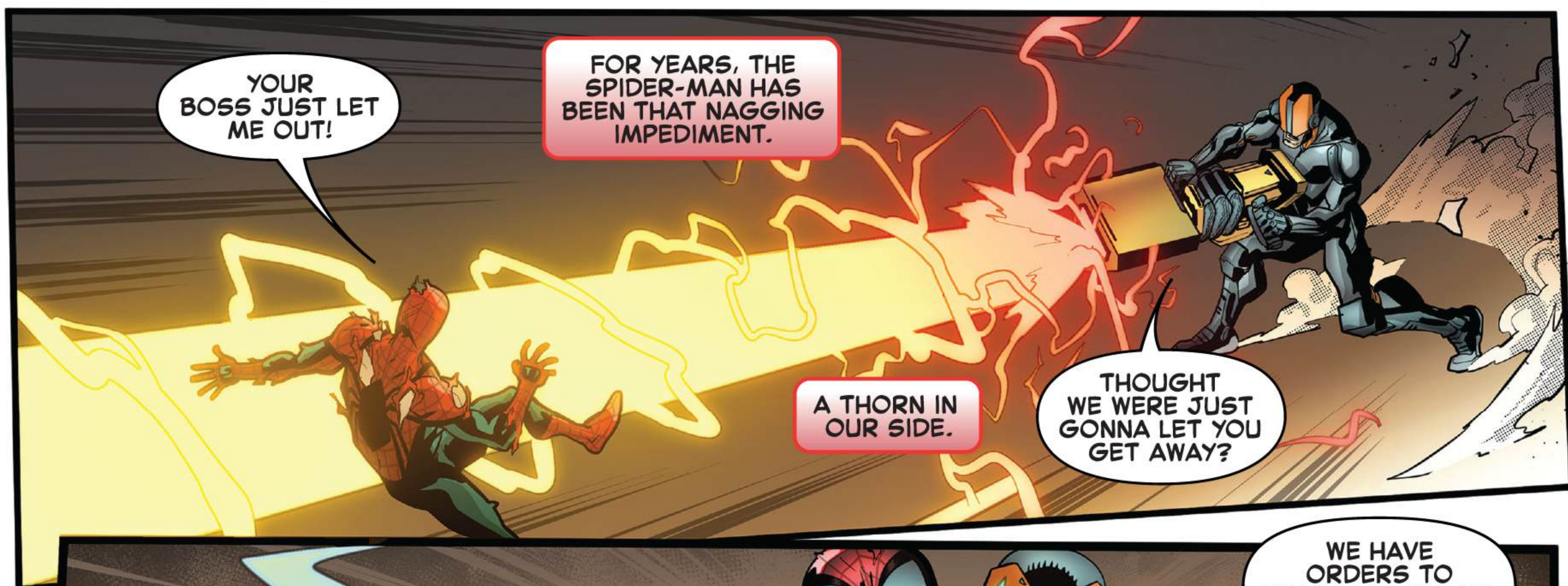


WHAT NOW?



SPIDER-MAN! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

SOMETHING THAT MY FATHER HAS FAILED TO DO MANY TIMES.

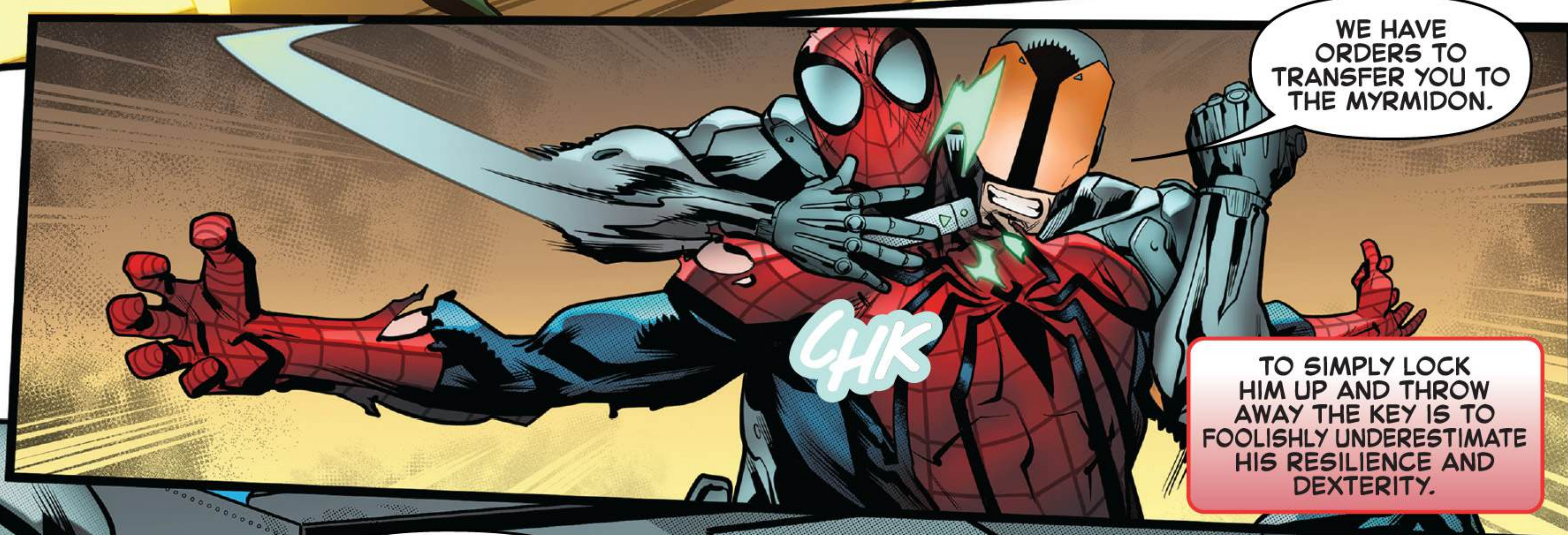


YOUR
BOSS JUST LET
ME OUT!

FOR YEARS, THE
SPIDER-MAN HAS
BEEN THAT NAGGING
IMPEDIMENT.

A THORN IN
OUR SIDE.

THOUGHT
WE WERE JUST
GONNA LET YOU
GET AWAY?



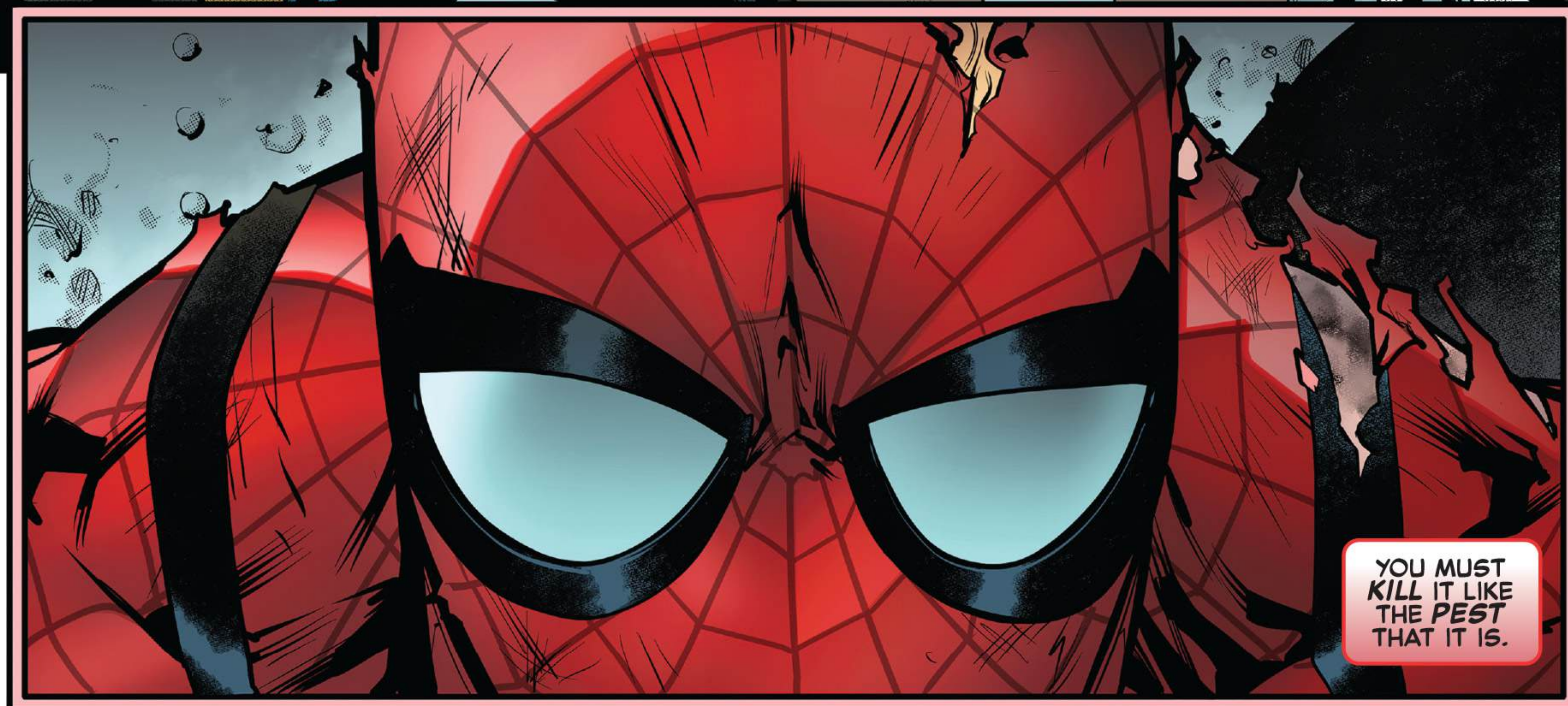
WE HAVE
ORDERS TO
TRANSFER YOU TO
THE MYRMIDON.

TO SIMPLY LOCK
HIM UP AND THROW
AWAY THE KEY IS TO
FOOLISHLY UNDERESTIMATE
HIS RESILIENCE AND
DEXTERITY.

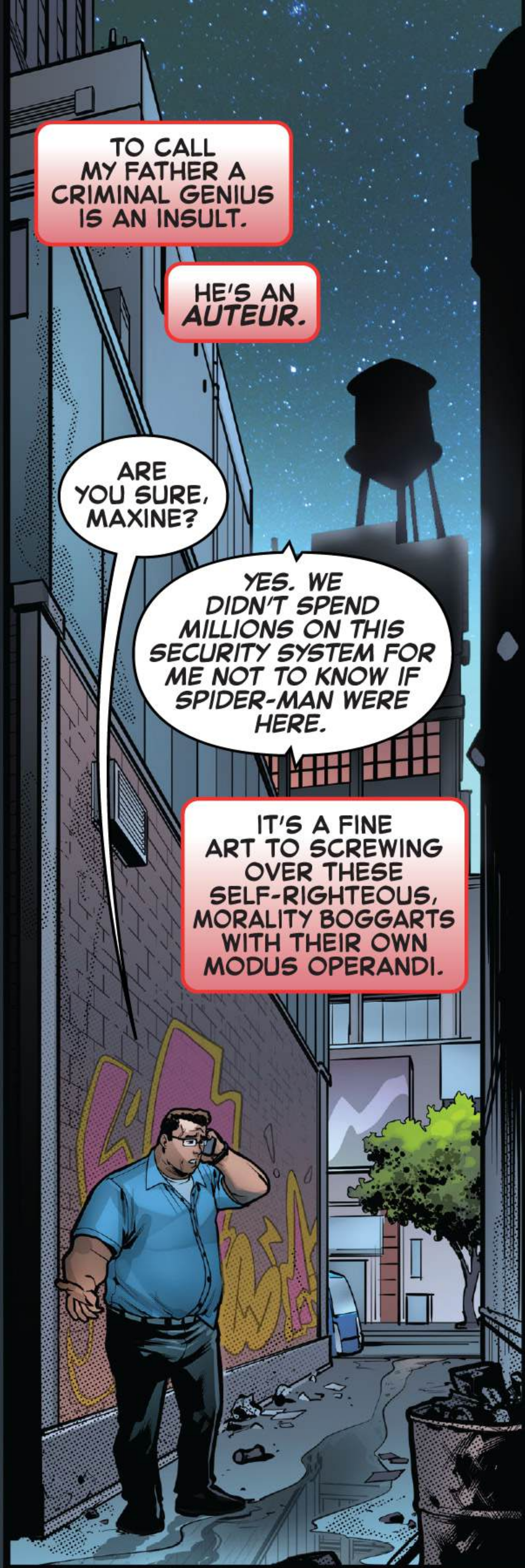


NO WORRIES,
PAL. WE MADE IT REAL
COZY FOR YOU BACK
THERE.

YOU CAN'T
JUST DETAIN
THE SPIDER.



YOU MUST
KILL IT LIKE
THE PEST
THAT IT IS.



TO CALL MY FATHER A CRIMINAL GENIUS IS AN INSULT.

HE'S AN AUTEUR.

ARE YOU SURE, MAXINE?

YES. WE DIDN'T SPEND MILLIONS ON THIS SECURITY SYSTEM FOR ME NOT TO KNOW IF SPIDER-MAN WERE HERE.

IT'S A FINE ART TO SCREWING OVER THESE SELF-RIGHTEOUS, MORALITY BOGGARTS WITH THEIR OWN MODUS OPERANDI.



HE'S NOT HERE. HE'S NOT THERE, WHERE IS HE?

SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING YOU BETTER FIGURE OUT, MOMPLAISIR.



I MUST SAY, HIS PLAN TO TURN THE LAW AGAINST THE VERY PEOPLE WHO PROTECT IT IS BRILLIANCE AT ITS FINEST.

MMMPPH!

HOWEVER, IN ORDER FOR ITS FULL POTENTIAL TO BE REALIZED...

...I MUST BE THE FISK TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO CLEAR OUT ALL "IMPEDIMENTS" TOWARD ITS BEAUTIFUL EXECUTION.



LIKE I SAID...



HELLO? MARCUS?

...A CRIMINAL MASTERMIND MUST HAVE EXCEPTIONAL FORESIGHT.



NOT SURE IF IT'S A SMART
MOVE TO TRY AND ESCAPE
THIS TIME. I DON'T WANNA
CHANCE HOW FAST THIS
GUY MAY BE WITH THE
TRIGGER WITH MY POWERS
IMPAIRED BY THIS COLLAR.

SOMETHING
FEELS STRANGE
ABOUT THIS.

SINCE WHEN DID
THE POLICE START
ARRESTING
FLOWERS?

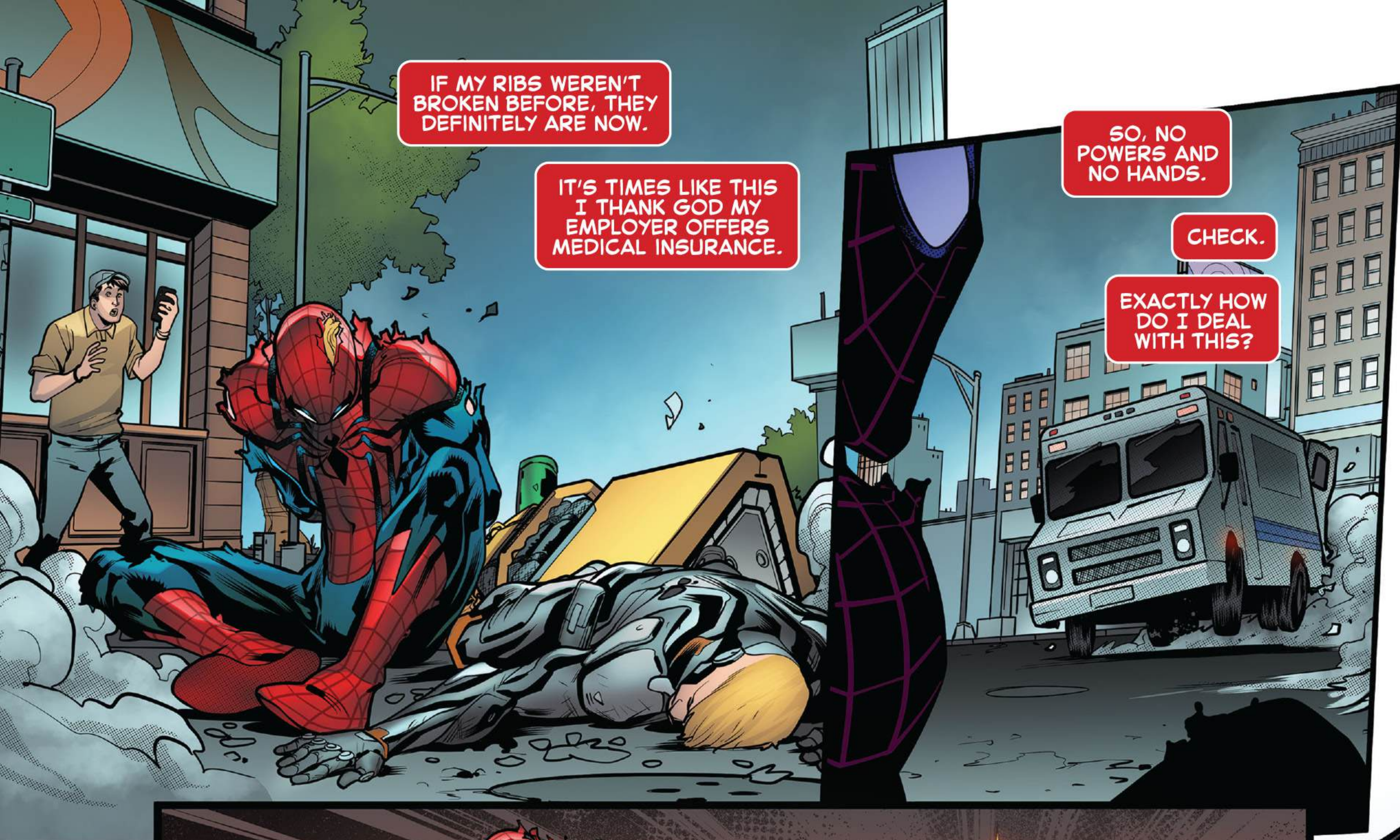
IT'S NOT
SO FUN BEING A
FUGITIVE, HUH,
SPIDER-MAN?

NOW YOU
KNOW HOW
WE FEEL.

WAIT.

WHAT DID
YOU JUST
SAY?

OMPH.



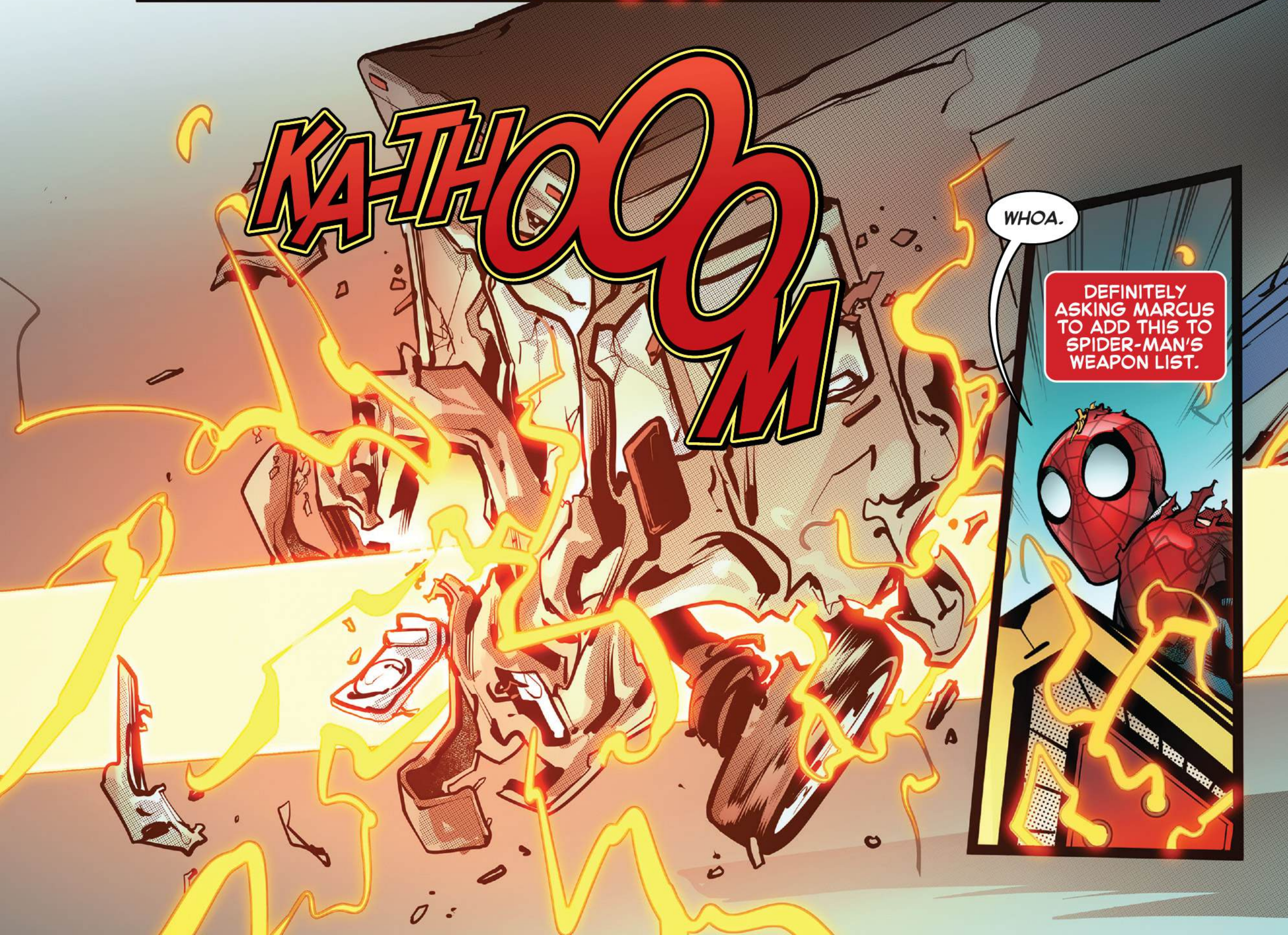
IF MY RIBS WEREN'T
BROKEN BEFORE, THEY
DEFINITELY ARE NOW.

IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS
I THANK GOD MY
EMPLOYER OFFERS
MEDICAL INSURANCE.

SO, NO
POWERS AND
NO HANDS.

CHECK.

EXACTLY HOW
DO I DEAL
WITH THIS?



WHOA.

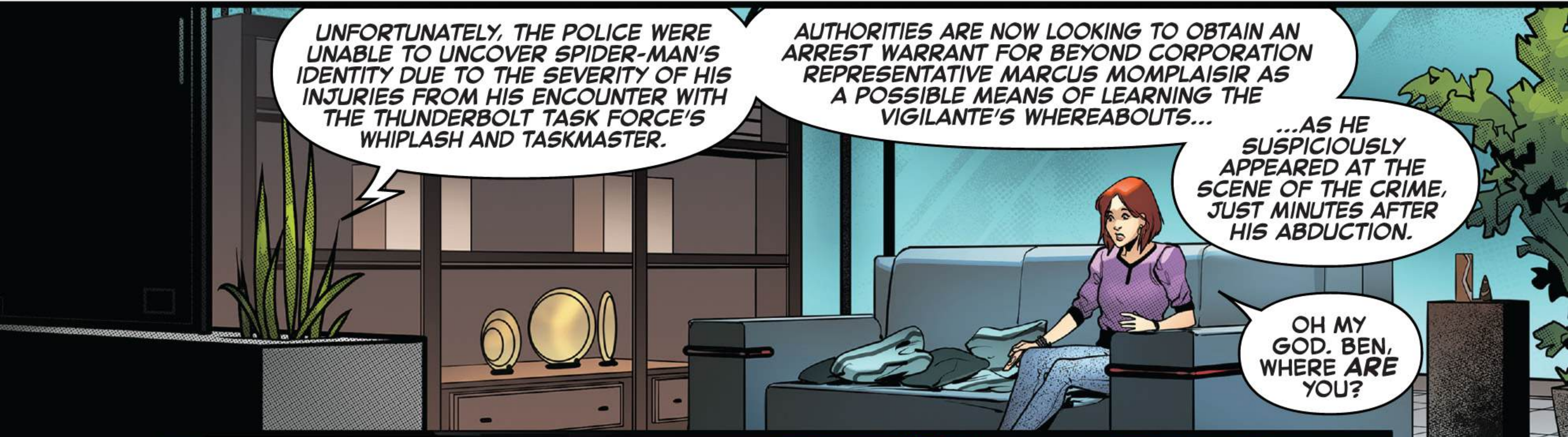
DEFINITELY
ASKING MARCUS
TO ADD THIS TO
SPIDER-MAN'S
WEAPON LIST.





AROUND AN HOUR AGO, IT WAS HERE THAT SPIDER-MAN WAS BEING HELD BY AUTHORITIES AFTER HE WAS ARRESTED DURING A HORRIFYING BATTLE AT THE DAILY BUGLE HEADQUARTERS.

POLICE ARE NOW PREPARING TO CONDUCT A CITYWIDE SEARCH FOR THE INFAMOUS HERO AFTER HE WAS ABDUCTED BY BEN GRIMM AND JOHNNY STORM OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.



UNFORTUNATELY, THE POLICE WERE UNABLE TO UNCOVER SPIDER-MAN'S IDENTITY DUE TO THE SEVERITY OF HIS INJURIES FROM HIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE THUNDERBOLT TASK FORCE'S WHIPLASH AND TASKMASTER.

AUTHORITIES ARE NOW LOOKING TO OBTAIN AN ARREST WARRANT FOR BEYOND CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVE MARCUS MOMPLAISIR AS A POSSIBLE MEANS OF LEARNING THE VIGILANTE'S WHEREABOUTS...

...AS HE SUSPICIOUSLY APPEARED AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, JUST MINUTES AFTER HIS ABDUCTION.

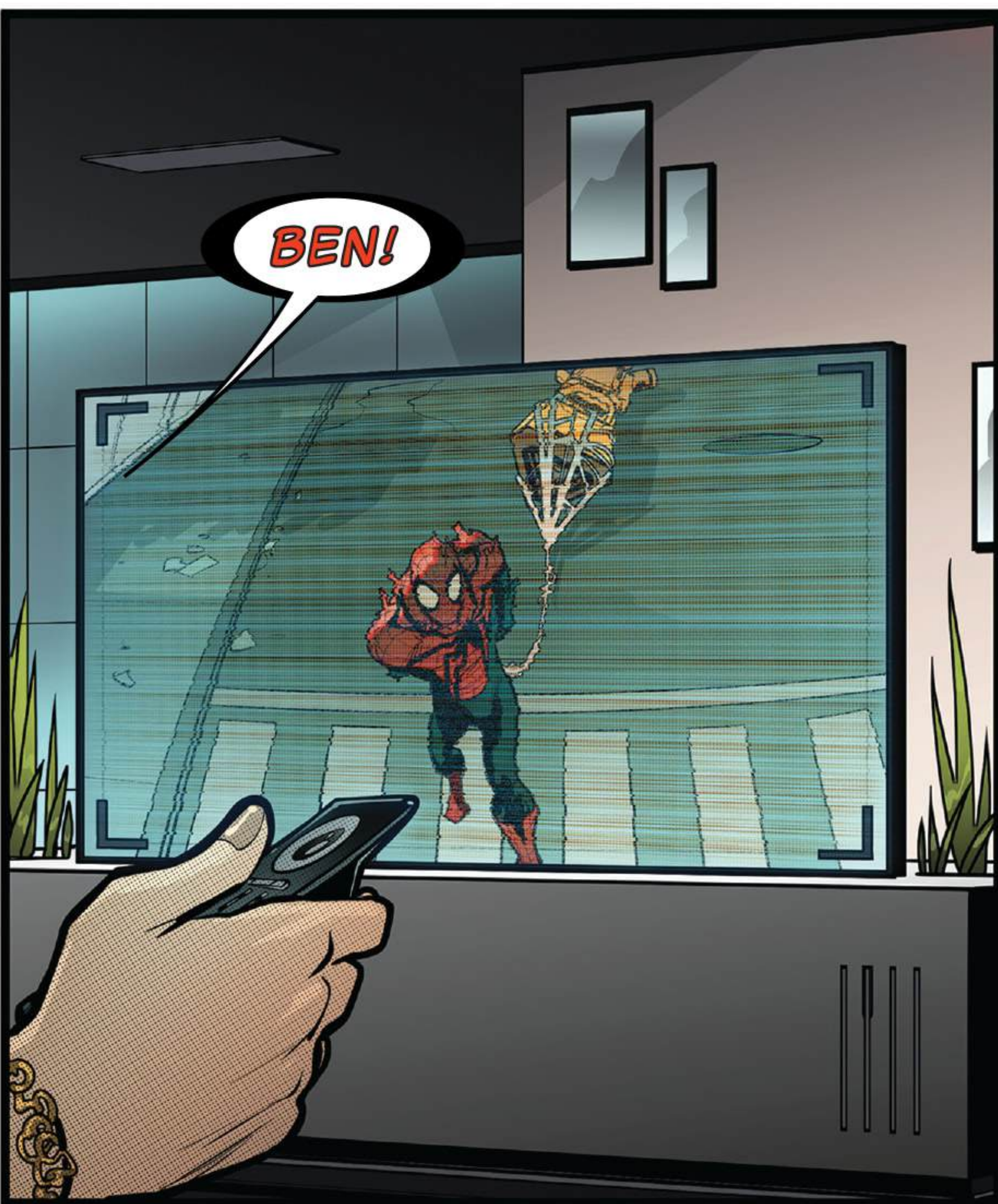
OH MY GOD. BEN, WHERE ARE YOU?



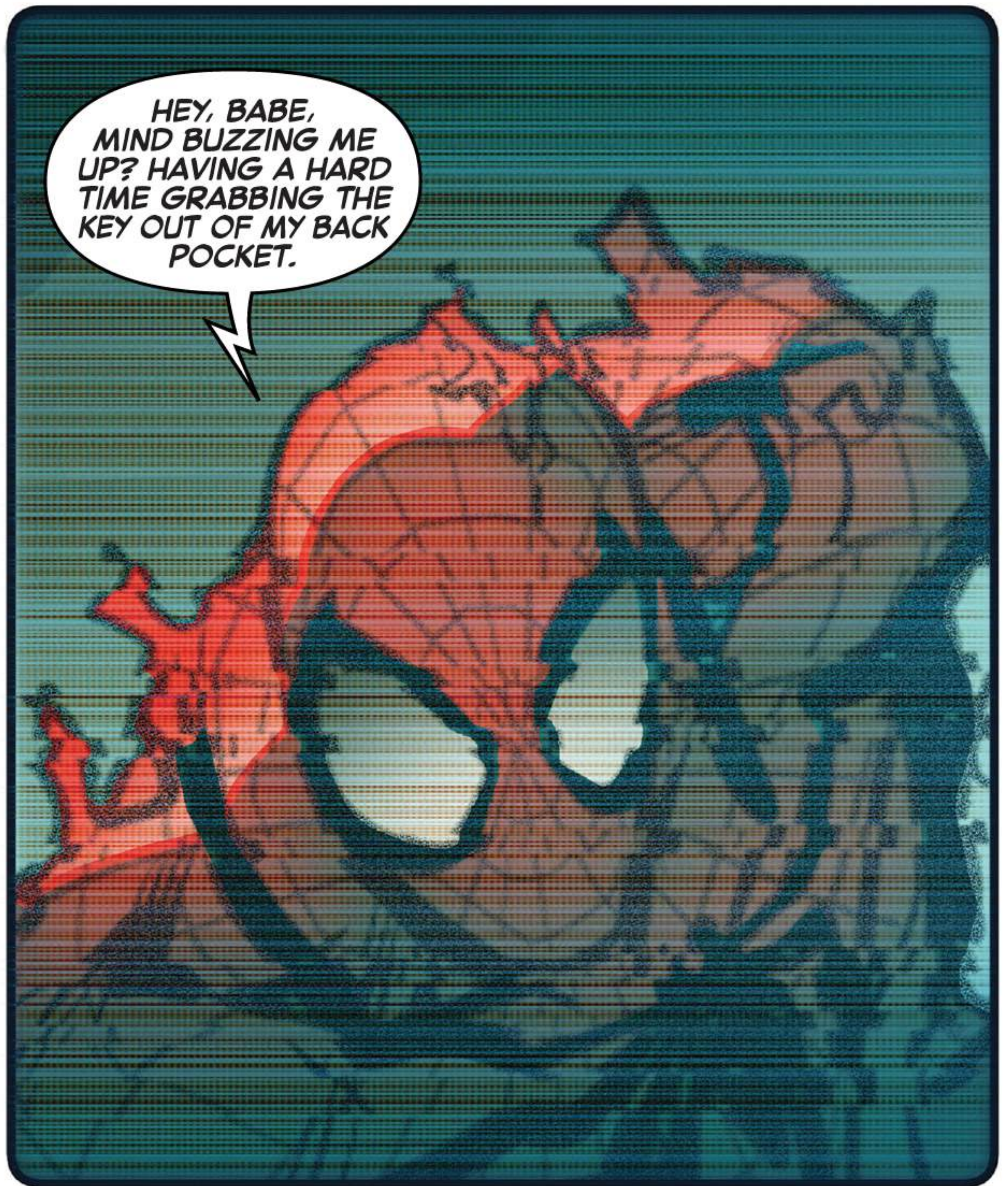
IF JOHNNY AND BEN BROKE YOU OUT AN HOUR AGO, SOMEONE HERE SHOULD'VE HEARD FROM YOU BY NOW.

I HOPE YOU'RE--

BZZZ



BEN!



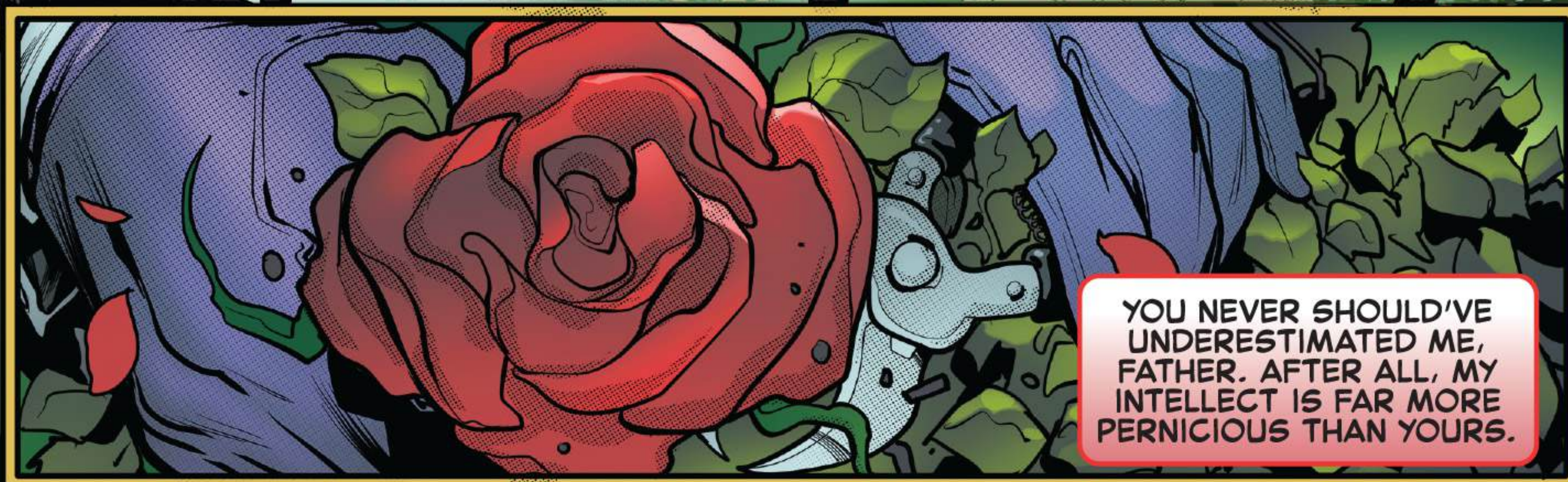
HEY, BABE, MIND BUZZING ME UP? HAVING A HARD TIME GRABBING THE KEY OUT OF MY BACK POCKET.

I FEEL SORRY FOR WHOMEVER IS IN MY FATHER'S PRESENCE RIGHT NOW. I IMAGINE HE'S PROBABLY THROWING A TANTRUM.

I'VE DEALT WITH MY FAIR SHARE.

LOTS OF BROKEN FURNITURE.

MAYBE I'LL LET HIM RAGE FOR A BIT. IT'LL BE ENTERTAINING.



YOU NEVER SHOULD'VE UNDERESTIMATED ME, FATHER. AFTER ALL, MY INTELLECT IS FAR MORE PERNICIOUS THAN YOURS.

I HAVE SPENT MY ENTIRE LIFE IN YOUR SHADOW, BRED TO SEE ALL OF THE THINGS YOU CAN'T. ALL YOUR BLIND SPOTS. ALL YOUR OVERSIGHTS.

WHEN YOU CAST ME AWAY, I INFILTRATED YOUR RANKS RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE. YOU, NONE THE WISER.

WHAT MAKES YOU BELIEVE I CAN'T SEIZE POWER FROM YOU AGAIN?

AND THIS TIME, ON A MUCH GRANDER STAGE.

HOWEVER, FIRST I WILL SHOW YOU EXACTLY WHY I AM THE SUPERIOR FISK--

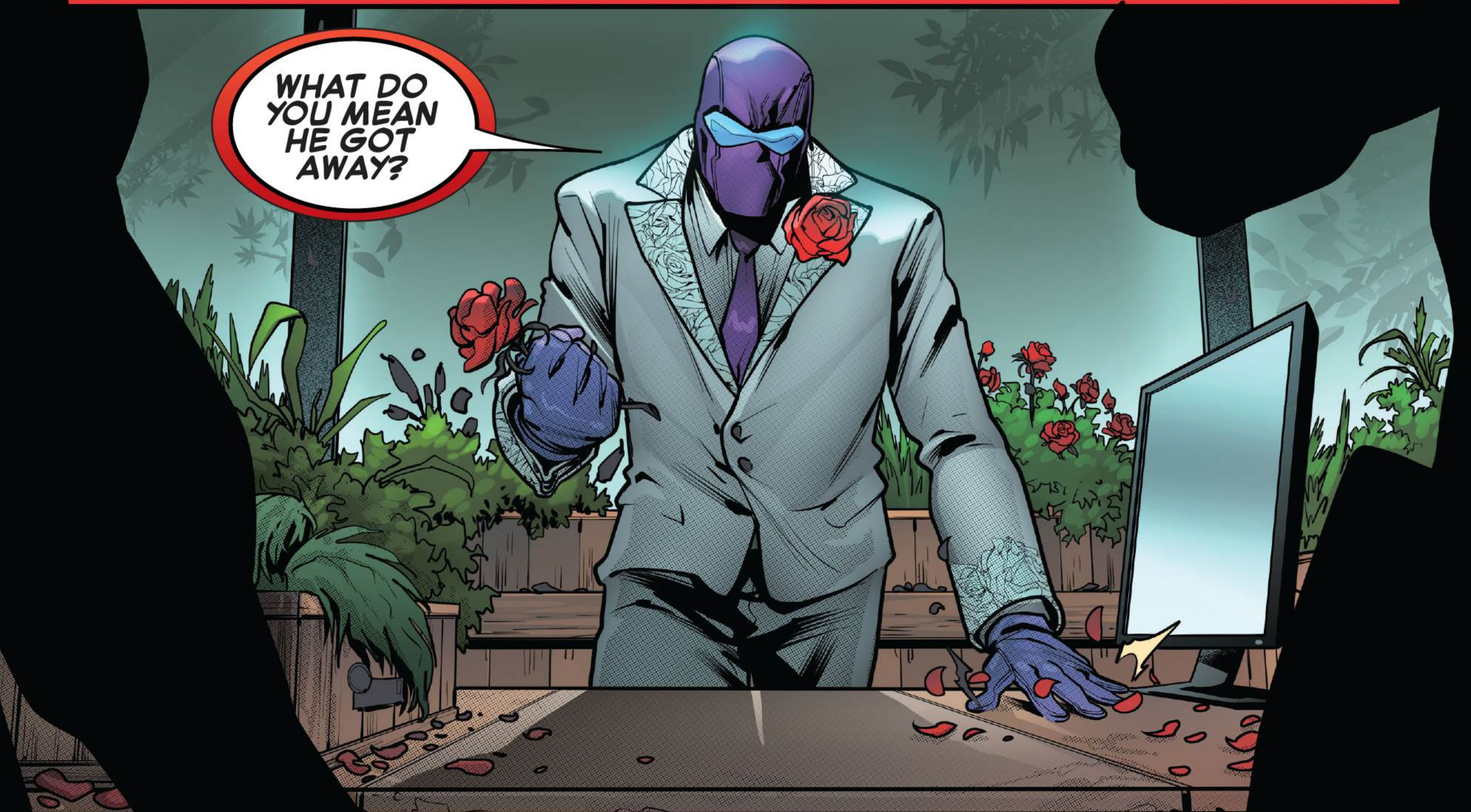


CRUNCH

--WHEN I AM THE ONE WHO CAPTURES AND KILLS THE SPIDER-MAN.



SPIDER-MAN GOT AWAY.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE GOT AWAY?



DOOFUS HERE GAVE US AWAY BY TELLING HIM WE WERE CRIMINALS.

GEE, THANKS, GENIUS. YOU SAID WE WEREN'T GONNA TELL HIM.



K-KLAT

THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR HIRING CONTRACTORS.



HEY!

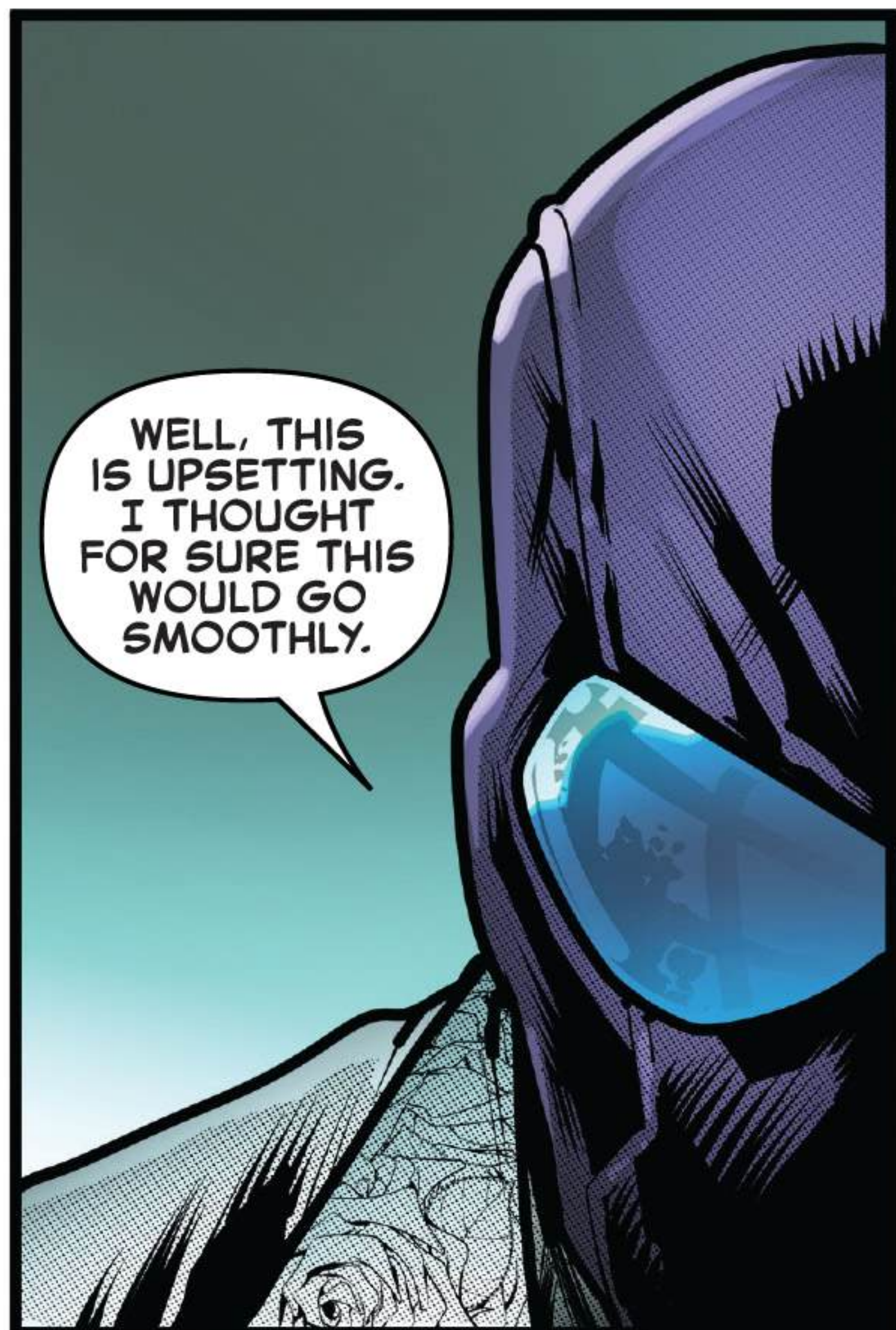
BANG



NEXT TIME, I WON'T *MISS*. NOW REMOVE YOURSELF FROM MY PRESENCE.

YES, BOSS.

ARE WE STILL GETTING PAID?



WELL, THIS IS UPSETTING. I THOUGHT FOR SURE THIS WOULD GO SMOOTHLY.



WHY IS GOOD HELP SO DIFFICULT TO FIND NOWADAYS?

I WAS HOPING TO AVOID GETTING MY HANDS DIRTY.

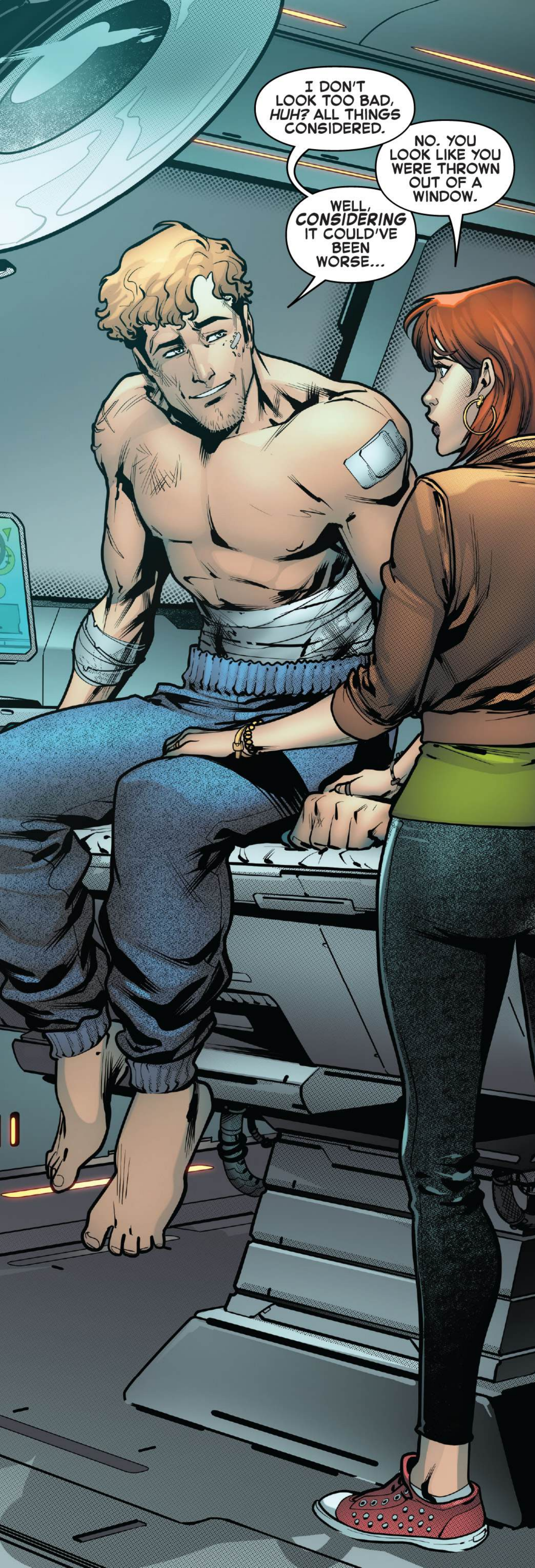


THESE GLOVES ARE MONGOLIAN CASHMERE.



LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
GOING WITH
PLAN B.

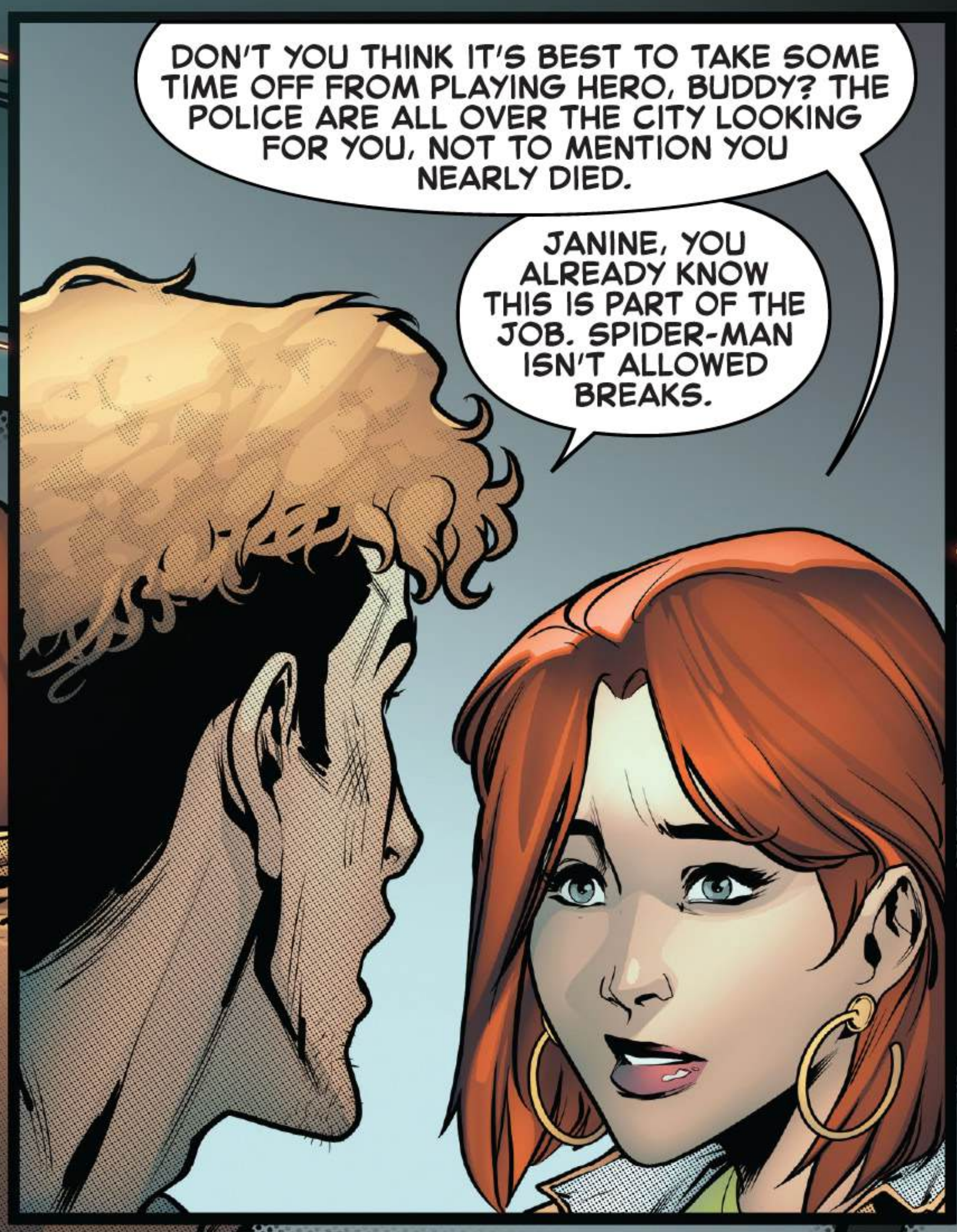




I DON'T LOOK TOO BAD, HUH? ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.

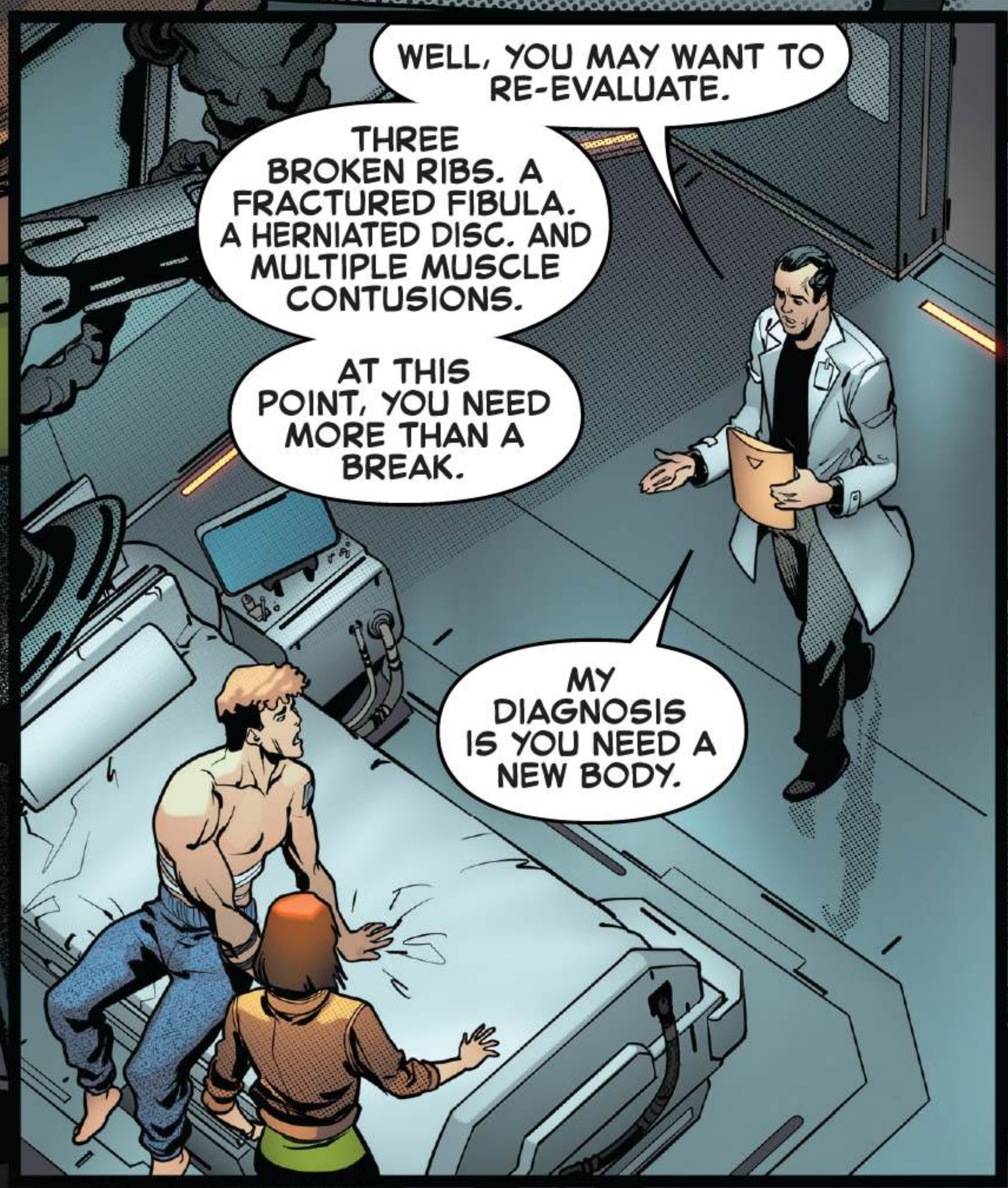
NO. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WERE THROWN OUT OF A WINDOW.

WELL, CONSIDERING IT COULD'VE BEEN WORSE...



DON'T YOU THINK IT'S BEST TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF FROM PLAYING HERO, BUDDY? THE POLICE ARE ALL OVER THE CITY LOOKING FOR YOU, NOT TO MENTION YOU NEARLY DIED.

JANINE, YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS IS PART OF THE JOB. SPIDER-MAN ISN'T ALLOWED BREAKS.



WELL, YOU MAY WANT TO RE-EVALUATE.

THREE BROKEN RIBS. A FRACTURED FIBULA. A HERNIATED DISC. AND MULTIPLE MUSCLE CONTUSIONS.

AT THIS POINT, YOU NEED MORE THAN A BREAK.

MY DIAGNOSIS IS YOU NEED A NEW BODY.



THAT'S ALL?

COMPARED TO HOW I FEEL, I'D SAY I LUCKED OUT.



YOU REALLY SHOULD GET SOME REST, MR. REILLY. EVEN WITH YOUR ADVANCED HEALING, THOSE INJURIES COULD GET A LOT WORSE IF AGGRAVATED.

DO WE GET PAID TIME OFF AROUND HERE?

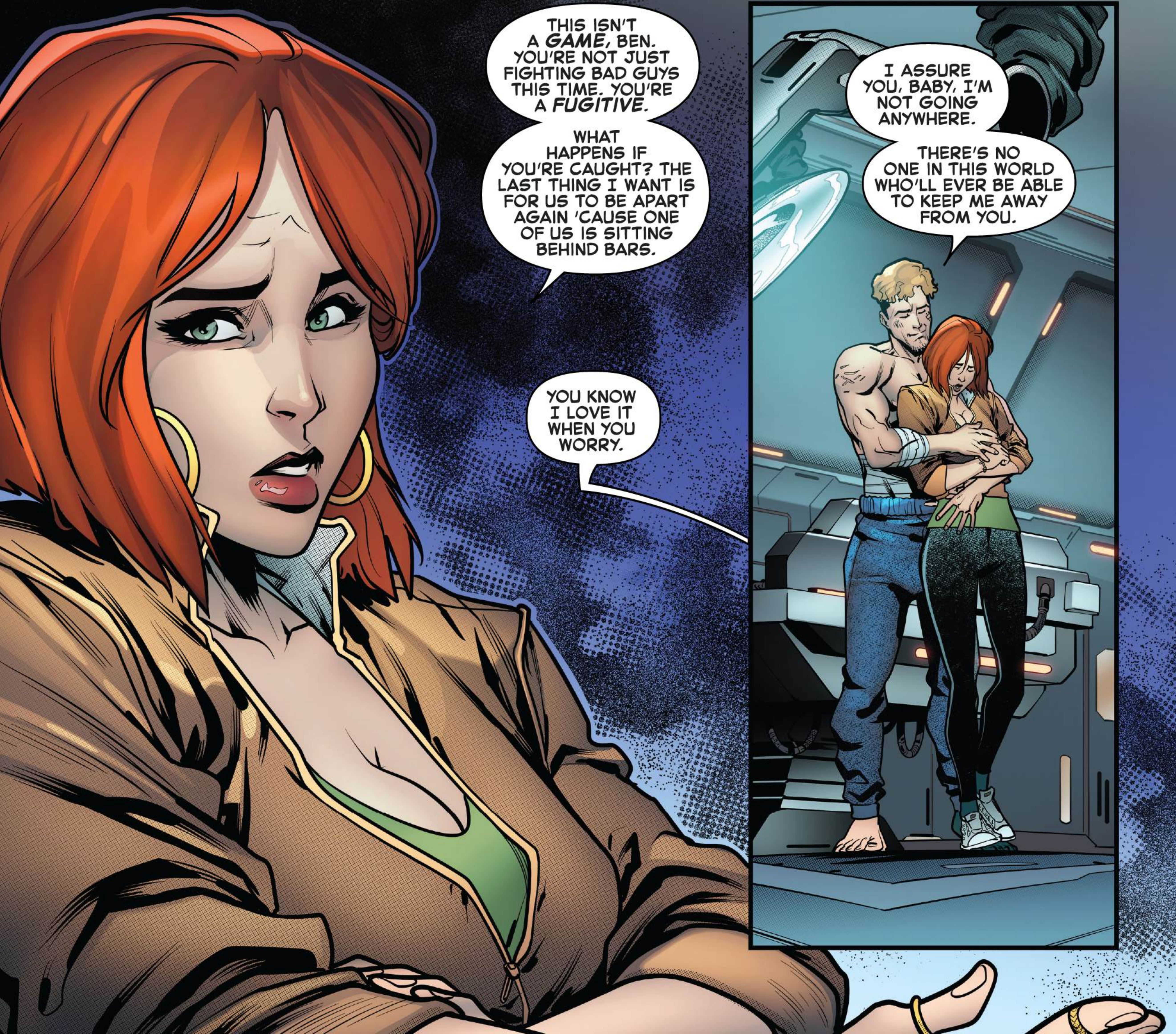
IT'S NOT FUNNY, BEN. AND YES, YOU DO. TAKE IT.



AW, COME ON, BABE. THIS IS WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING. I BEAT UP BAD GUYS, ALMOST DIE, THEN REPEAT. IT'S IN THE SUPER HERO MANUAL.

DOES EVERYTHING HAVE TO BE A JOKE?

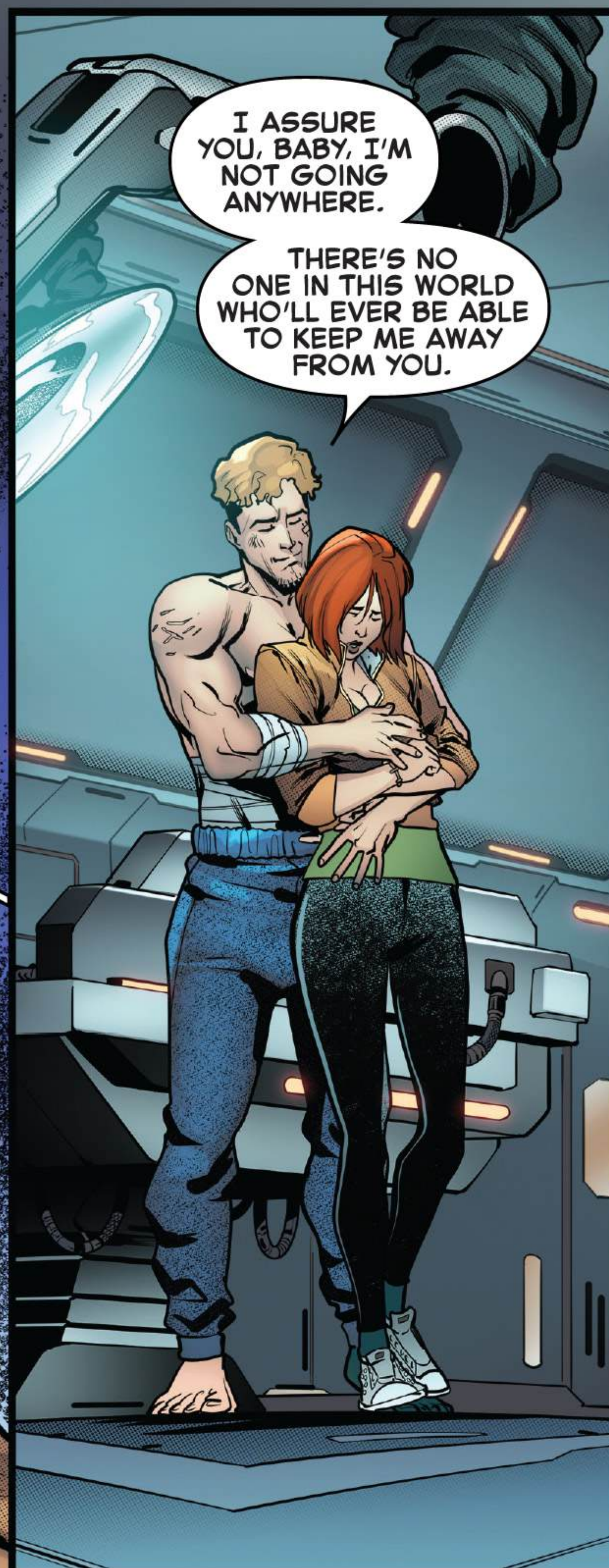
YEP. IT'S IN THE MANUAL TOO.



THIS ISN'T A **GAME**, BEN. YOU'RE NOT JUST FIGHTING BAD GUYS THIS TIME. YOU'RE A **FUGITIVE**.

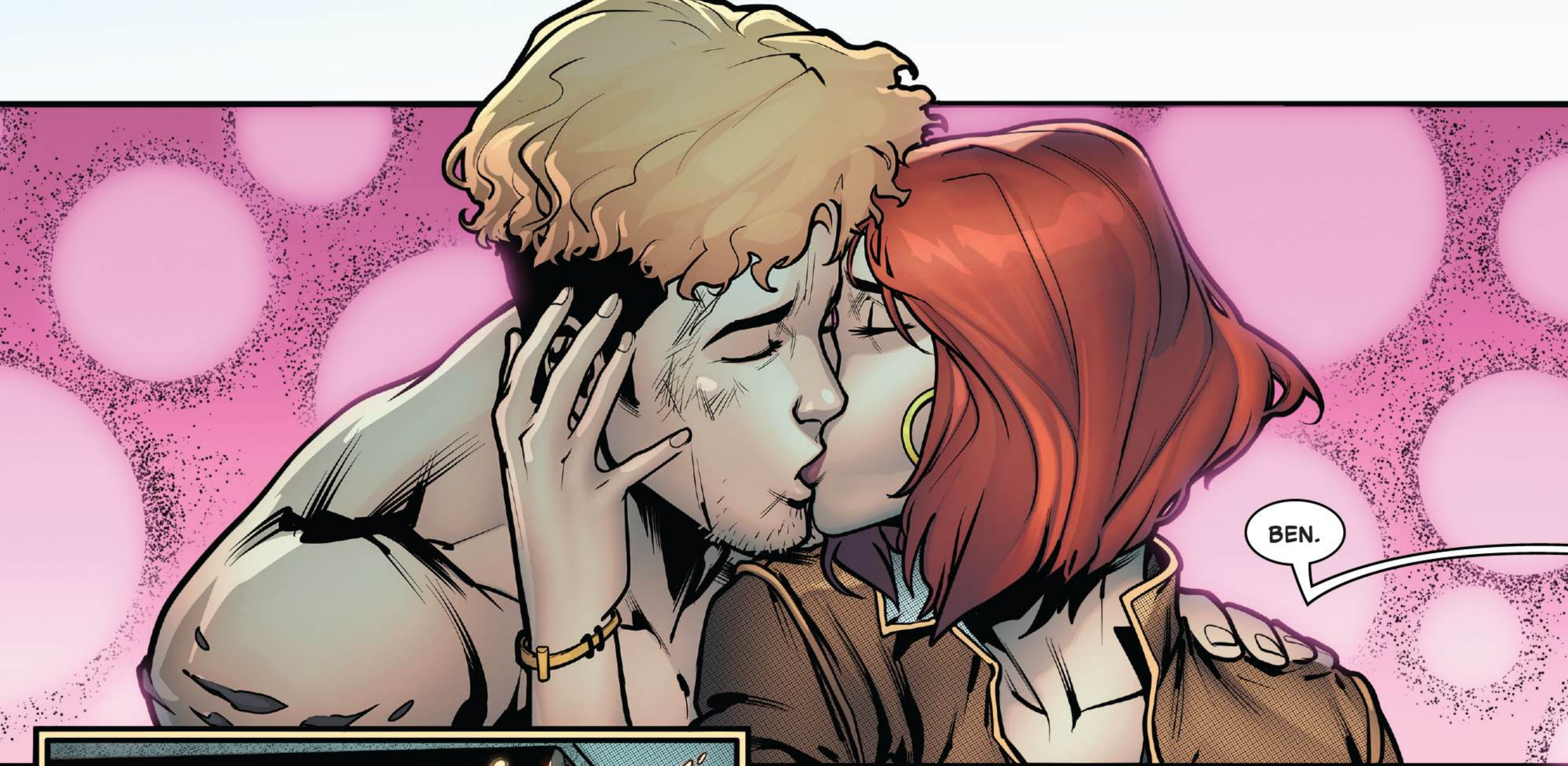
WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU'RE CAUGHT? THE LAST THING I WANT IS FOR US TO BE APART AGAIN 'CAUSE ONE OF US IS SITTING BEHIND BARS.

YOU KNOW I LOVE IT WHEN YOU WORRY.

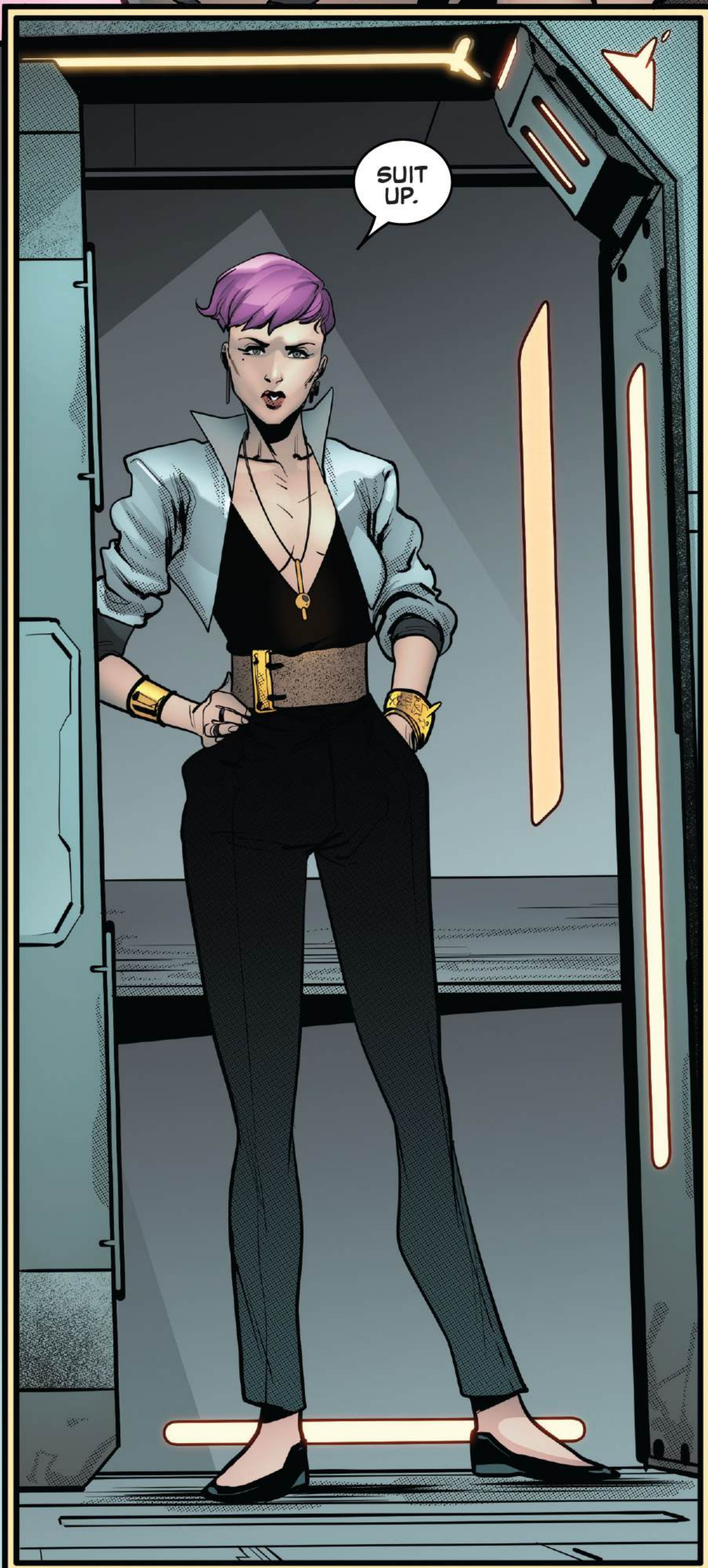


I ASSURE YOU, BABY, I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

THERE'S NO ONE IN THIS WORLD WHO'LL EVER BE ABLE TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM YOU.



BEN.



SUIT UP.



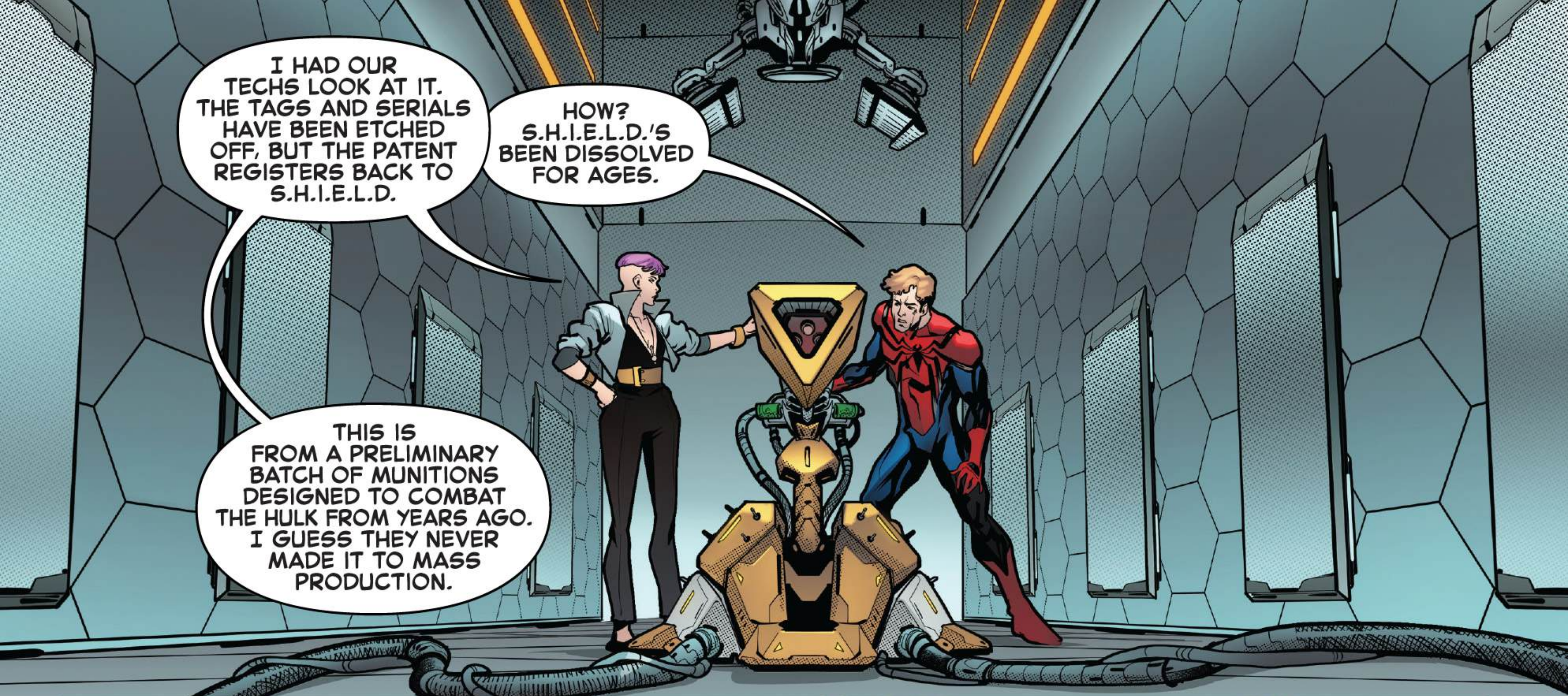
OKAY, MAYBE EXCEPT HER.

WHAT IS IT, MAXINE?



THAT WEAPON YOU BROUGHT BACK?

IT'S S.H.I.E.L.D. TECH.



I HAD OUR TECHS LOOK AT IT. THE TAGS AND SERIALS HAVE BEEN ETCHED OFF, BUT THE PATENT REGISTERS BACK TO S.H.I.E.L.D.

HOW? S.H.I.E.L.D.'S BEEN DISSOLVED FOR AGES.

THIS IS FROM A PRELIMINARY BATCH OF MUNITIONS DESIGNED TO COMBAT THE HULK FROM YEARS AGO. I GUESS THEY NEVER MADE IT TO MASS PRODUCTION.



WOW. THE *HULK*? EXPLAINS WHY THIS THING IS SO POWERFUL.

IT KICKS LIKE A WRECKING BALL.



I KNOW. WE TESTED IT OUT.



IT SEEMS LIKE SOMEONE AT THE PENTAGON HAS BEEN IRRESPONSIBLY SAFEGUARDING ALL OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S SEIZED PROPERTY, BECAUSE WE'VE DISCOVERED THAT WILSON FISK'S SON HAS MANAGED TO GET HIS HANDS ON AN ENTIRE STOCKPILE.

THE ROSE? WHAT WOULD HE WANT WITH THESE?



THAT'S THE MILLION DOLLAR QUESTION.

AND LUCKILY FOR YOU...

...YOU GOT TWO LIFELINES.



DOES THAT MEAN THIS IS MULTIPLE CHOICE, MISTY?

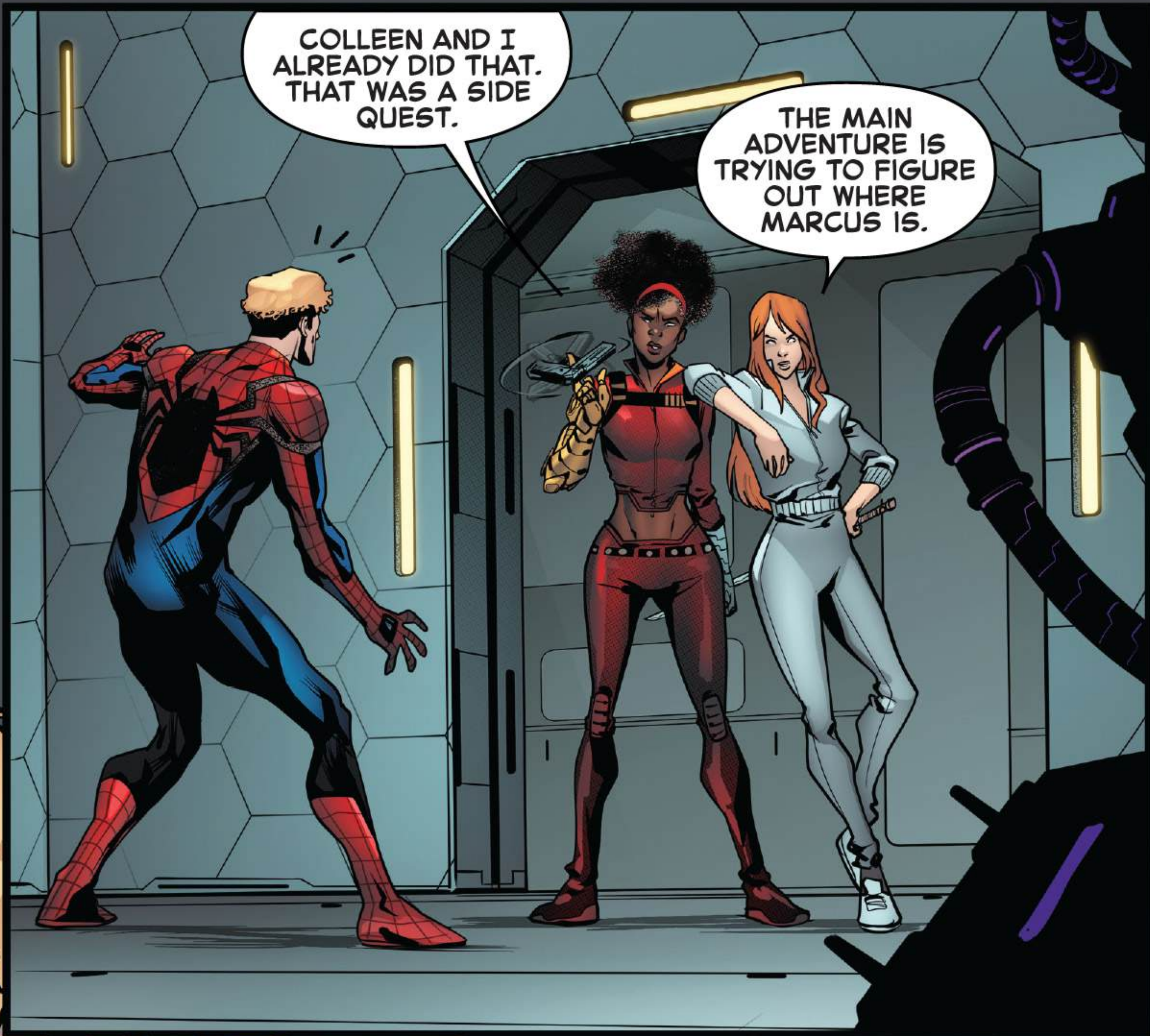
NO, WHAT IT MEANS IS WE WERE DOING SOME DETECTIVE WORK WHILE YOU WERE RECOVERING, SLEEPING BEAUTY.

IT SEEMS DADDY'S BOY HAS BEEN MAKING SOME *LUCRATIVE DEALINGS* ON THE STREETS. HE'S BEEN RENTING OUT THOSE WEAPONS TO LOCAL GANGS FOR A MONTHLY FEE.



DAMN, EVEN CRIME IS MOVING TO THE SUBSCRIPTION MODEL.

SO WHAT'S THE GAME PLAN? WE NEED TO ROUND UP A BUNCH OF GANGSTERS AND GET THESE THINGS OFF THE STREETS?



COLLEEN AND I ALREADY DID THAT. THAT WAS A SIDE QUEST.

THE MAIN ADVENTURE IS TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHERE MARCUS IS.



WAIT, MARCUS IS MISSING?



WOULD YOU JUST TELL ME WHO HE IS?



AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF BEYOND, IT IS ILLEGAL TO PROVIDE ANY EMPLOYEE'S CREDENTIALS OR IDENTIFICATION WITHOUT AN AUTHORIZING GOVERNMENT DOCUMENT.

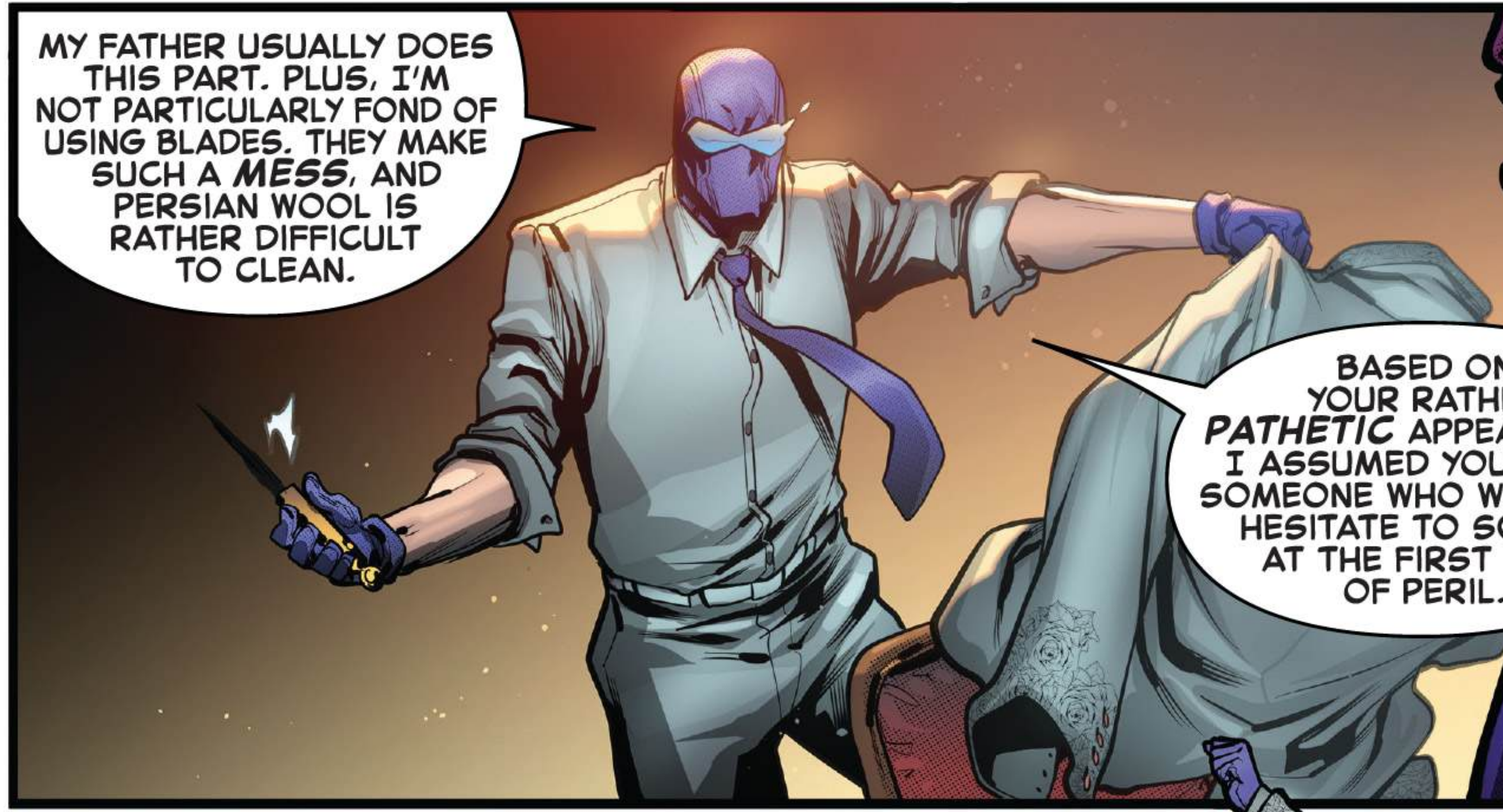


WHY ARE YOU BEING DIFFICULT?

BECAUSE HE'S MY... FRIEND.

YEAH. HE'S MY FRIEND, AND I WOULD NEVER PUT HIM IN DANGER.

...ARE YOU PLANNING TO TORTURE ME?

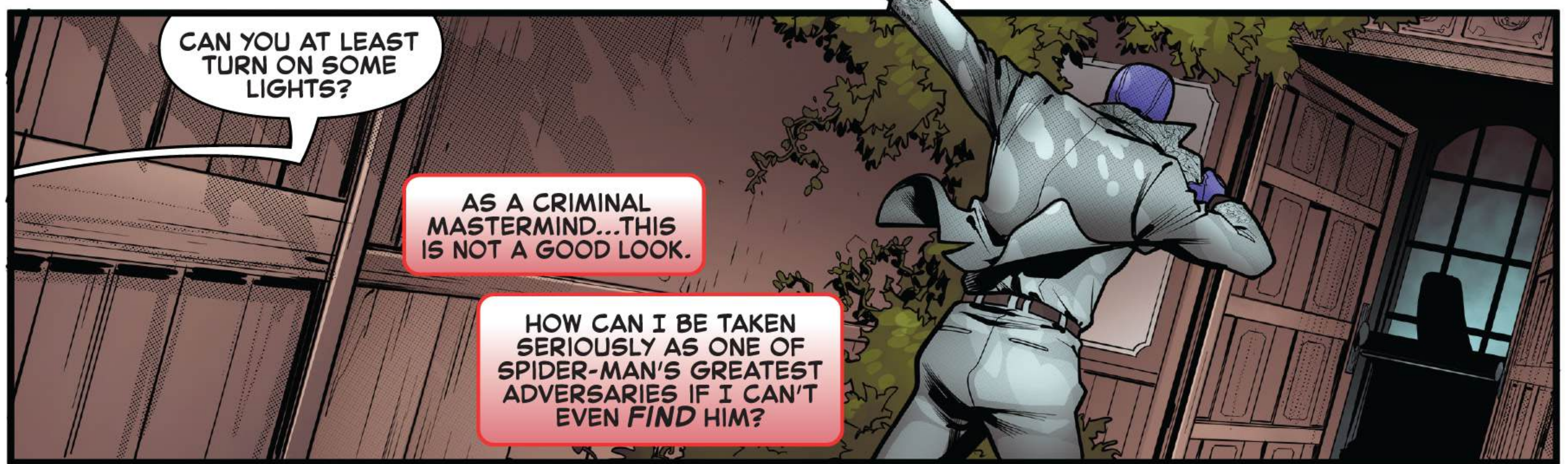


MY FATHER USUALLY DOES THIS PART. PLUS, I'M NOT PARTICULARLY FOND OF USING BLADES. THEY MAKE SUCH A *MESS*, AND PERSIAN WOOL IS RATHER DIFFICULT TO CLEAN.

BASED ON YOUR RATHER PATHETIC APPEARANCE, I ASSUMED YOU TO BE SOMEONE WHO WOULDN'T HESITATE TO SQUEAL AT THE FIRST SIGN OF PERIL.

HOWEVER, I STAND CORRECTED.

NONETHELESS... I WILL FIND A USE FOR YOU.



CAN YOU AT LEAST TURN ON SOME LIGHTS?

AS A CRIMINAL MASTERMIND...THIS IS NOT A GOOD LOOK.

HOW CAN I BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS ONE OF SPIDER-MAN'S GREATEST ADVERSARIES IF I CAN'T EVEN FIND HIM?



MY CONTINGENCY PLAN HASN'T BEEN COMPLETELY FRUITLESS. AT LEAST I WAS ABLE TO GATHER THEY'RE FRIENDS AND NOT SIMPLY ASSOCIATES.

THAT HAS TO BE WORTH SOMETHING.



THE QUESTION IS, HOW TO PUT IT TO USE?

WE ARE STILL ON THE HUNT FOR SPIDER-MAN.



IF ANY CIVILIANS HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING HIS WHEREABOUTS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL THE AUTHORITIES. IT IS IMPERATIVE TO REMEMBER SPIDER-MAN IS A CRIMINAL AND MUST BE TREATED AS SUCH.

HMM.



HELLO?
YES... I WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE AN ANONYMOUS TIP AS TO WHERE SPIDER-MAN IS HIDING.

FORESIGHT.

A full-page comic book illustration of Spider-Man swinging through a city street. He is in the center, wearing his iconic red and blue suit, with his body angled towards the viewer. He is holding onto a web with his right hand, and another web is visible in his left hand. The background shows a city street with tall buildings, a car, and pedestrians. The scene is dynamic, with motion lines and a sense of speed. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is heroic and action-packed.

ON A POSITIVE
NOTE, I SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL IT WAS
THE ROSE WHO TRIED
TO KIDNAP ME AND
NOT THE ACTUAL
POLICE.

OTHERWISE,
I'D BE SITTING
IN PRISON
RIGHT NOW.

BUT THE
QUESTION
IS-- WHY?

AND NOW
MARCUS IS
IN TROUBLE.
ALL BECAUSE HE
WAS TRYING
TO HELP ME.

I'LL DESTROY THAT
POMPOUS JERK
IF SOMETHING
HAPPENS TO HIM.

IF THIS PAIN
DOESN'T KILL
ME FIRST.

WHY EVERY SPIDER-MAN
INSISTS ON
WEB-SWINGING WITH
BROKEN RIBS ALL THE
TIME IS BEYOND ME.

I GUESS THAT'S
SORT OF THE POINT
OF SPIDER-MAN?

YOU FIGHT PAST
PAIN IN ORDER TO
PROTECT THOSE
WHO NEED IT.

WHICH MEANS I
CAN'T SUCCUMB
TO THIS AGONY,
EVEN IF I WANTED
TO.



AND, TO BE
HONEST,
I DON'T
WANT TO.



I GOTTA FIND
MARCUS. THAT'S
THE ONLY THING
THAT MATTERS.



WHAT'S
GOING ON,
MAXINE?



YOU WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO BE
GETTING ARRESTED
RIGHT NOW?

I DON'T
THINK SO.

THEN YOU
MIGHT WANT TO
HEAD TO THE EAST
VILLAGE.



PUT
YOUR HANDS
UP NOW!

SPIDER-MAN,
YOU ARE UNDER
ARREST!



THOUGHT
WE WOULDN'T
FIND YOU,
HUH?

SOMEONE'S
BEEN HITTING
THE BUFFETS
WHILE ON THE
RUN.

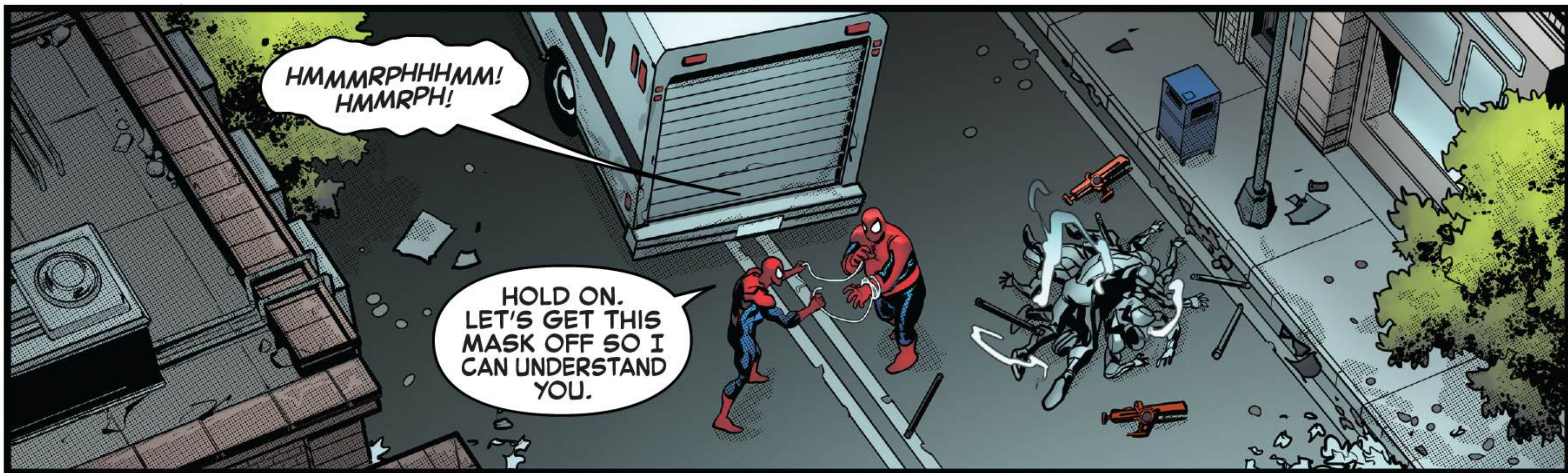
HMMRP HHMM!

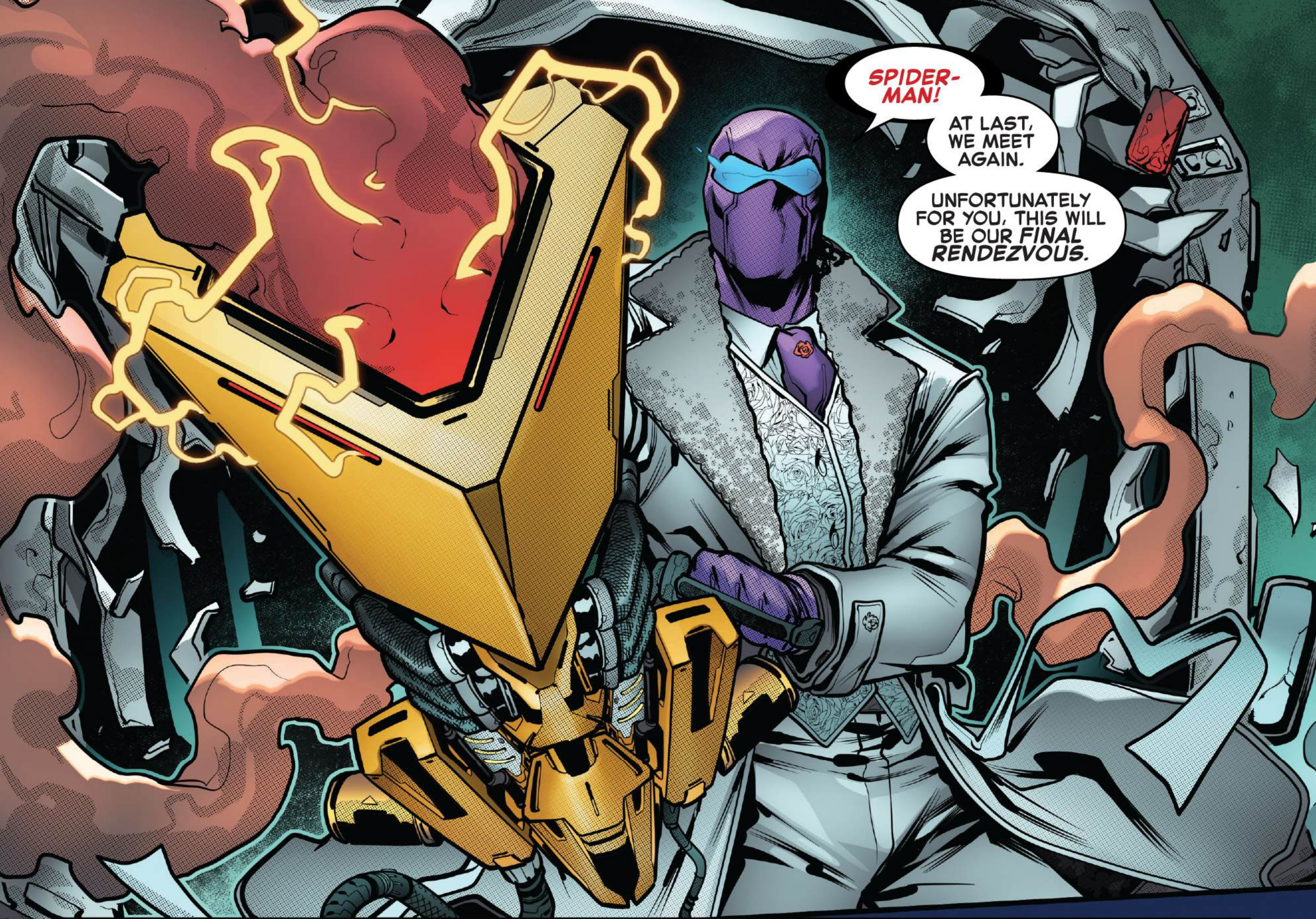
I
DON'T SPEAK
GIBBERISH,
PAL.



DO YOU
SPEAK **SMACK-
DOWN?** 'CAUSE
YOU'RE ABOUT
TO GET A
LESSON.



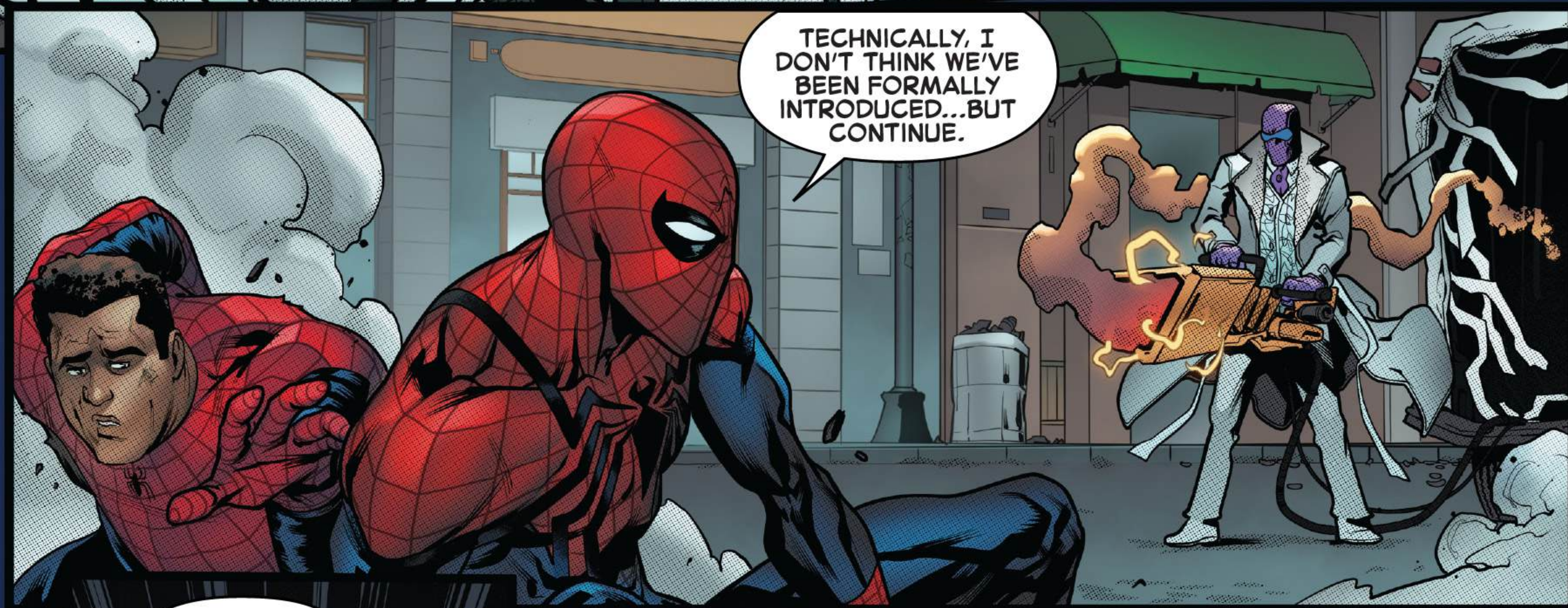




SPIDER-MAN!

AT LAST, WE MEET AGAIN.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR YOU, THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL RENDEZVOUS.

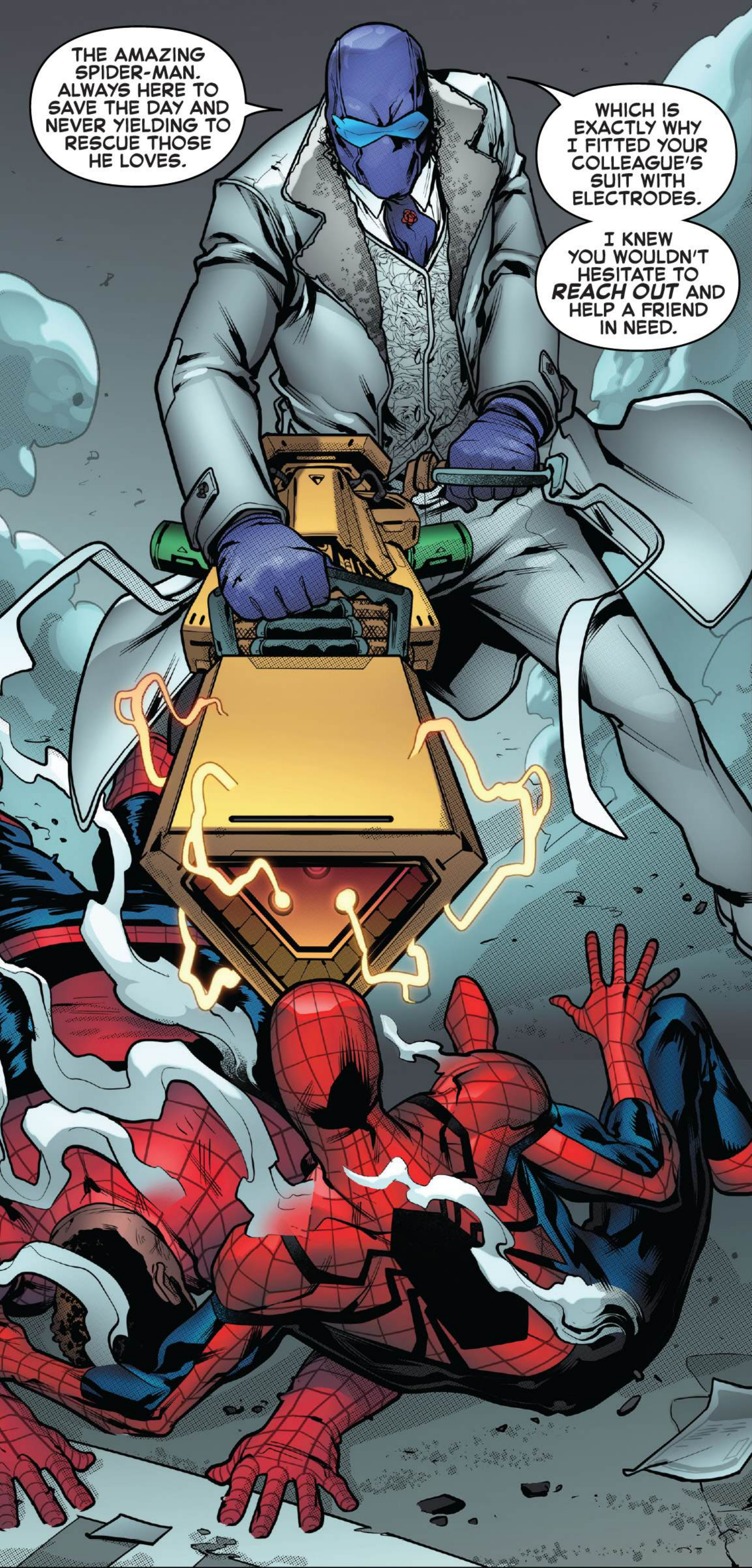


TECHNICALLY, I DON'T THINK WE'VE BEEN FORMALLY INTRODUCED...BUT CONTINUE.

ALWAYS THE JOKESTER.

BUT THIS IS FAR FROM A LAUGHING MATTER.





THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. ALWAYS HERE TO SAVE THE DAY AND NEVER YIELDING TO RESCUE THOSE HE LOVES.

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY I FITTED YOUR COLLEAGUE'S SUIT WITH ELECTRODES.

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT AND HELP A FRIEND IN NEED.



ONCE I PULL THIS TRIGGER, YOU'RE PERMANENTLY A PART OF THE PAVEMENT.

LOOK INTO THE EYES OF YOUR SUPERIOR.

IT DOESN'T TAKE ANIMAL POWERS OR SYMBIOTES TO DEFEAT THE SPIDER.

SIMPLY REMARKABLE INTELLECT AND EXCEPTIONAL FORESIGHT.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR ASSOCIATE. HE'LL BE FINE. THE ELECTRICAL CURRENT WAS RELATIVELY WEAK FOR A HUMAN BODY. BUT IF IT STINGS A BIT MORE THAN USUAL, YOU CAN THANK THE LEAD LINING IN THAT SWANKY NEW SUIT YOUR EMPLOYER BUILT FOR YOU.

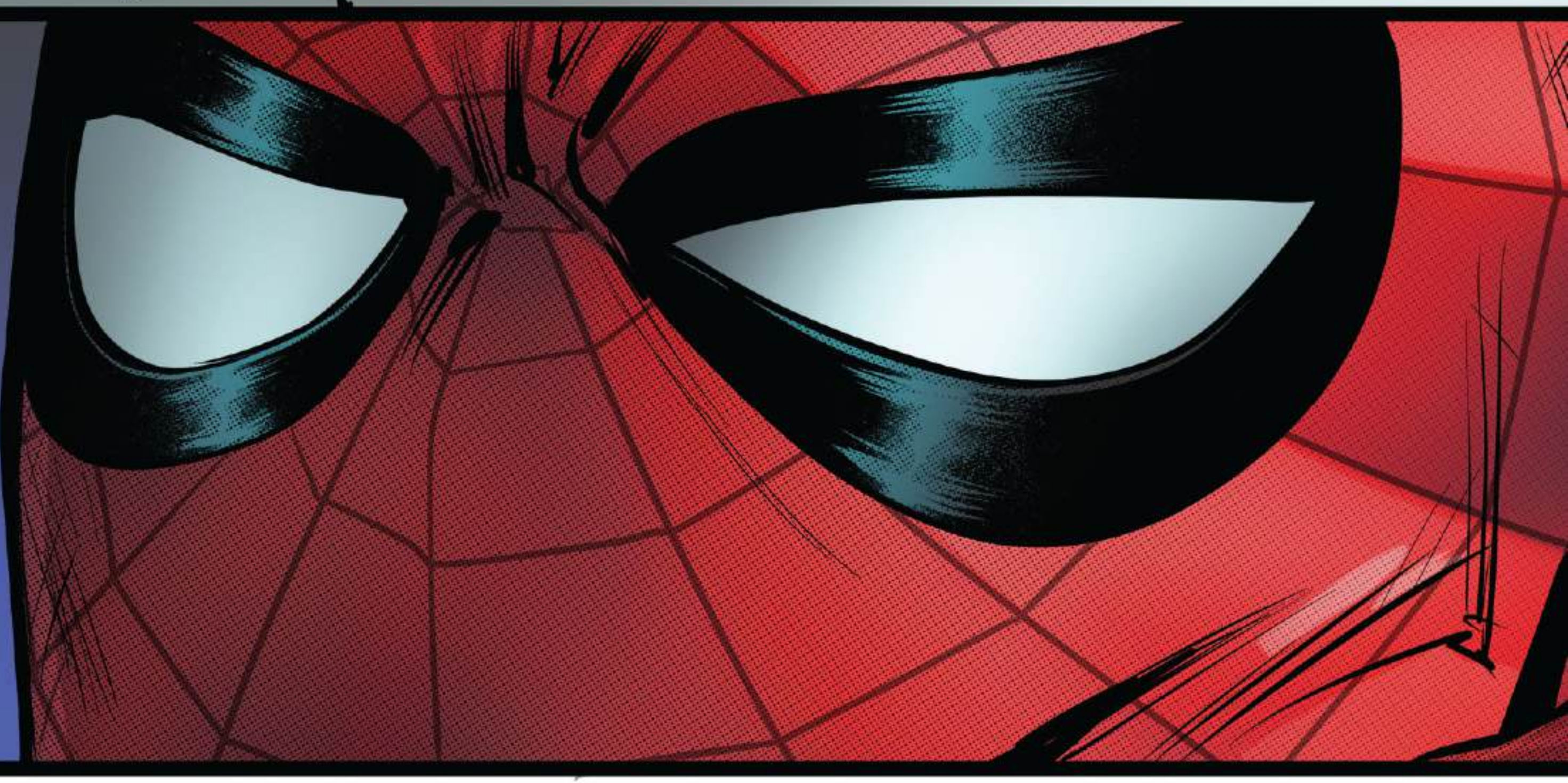


OKAY. DOC WAS RIGHT. THESE INJURIES DEFINITELY GOT A LOT WORSE. I CAN BARELY MOVE A MUSCLE.

LUCKY HE'S A CHATTY ONE. MY BEST MOVE IS TO KEEP HIM TALKING.

NOT THAT I WASN'T SURE YOU WEREN'T GONNA TELL ME... BUT CAN I ASK EXACTLY WHY YOU WANT ME DEAD? I JUST WANNA MAKE SURE THIS IS COVERED IN MY INSURANCE POLICY.

C'MON, NERVOUS SYSTEM. I NEED YOU TO REBOOT JUST A BIT FASTER.





IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL. YOU SIMPLY MUST DIE IN ORDER FOR MY FATHER'S PLAN TO BLOSSOM TO ITS FULL MATURATION.

ONCE ALL OF YOU HEROES ARE EITHER DEAD OR LOCKED AWAY, AND THERE ARE NO OBSTRUCTIONS IN SIGHT...*THAT'S* WHEN I MAKE MY MOVE TO OVERTHROW HIM AND TAKE MY POSITION AS THE TRUE *KINGPIN*.

WELL, BUDDY, I HATE TO TELL YOU...



...BUT YOU GOT A LOOONG WAY TO GO BEFORE YOU CAN FILL DADDY'S SHOES.



THAT'S FOR PUTTING ME IN AN EXTRA-SMALL COSTUME!

WHAM

BEYOND TOWER.

HOW'D EVERYTHING
CHECK OUT?

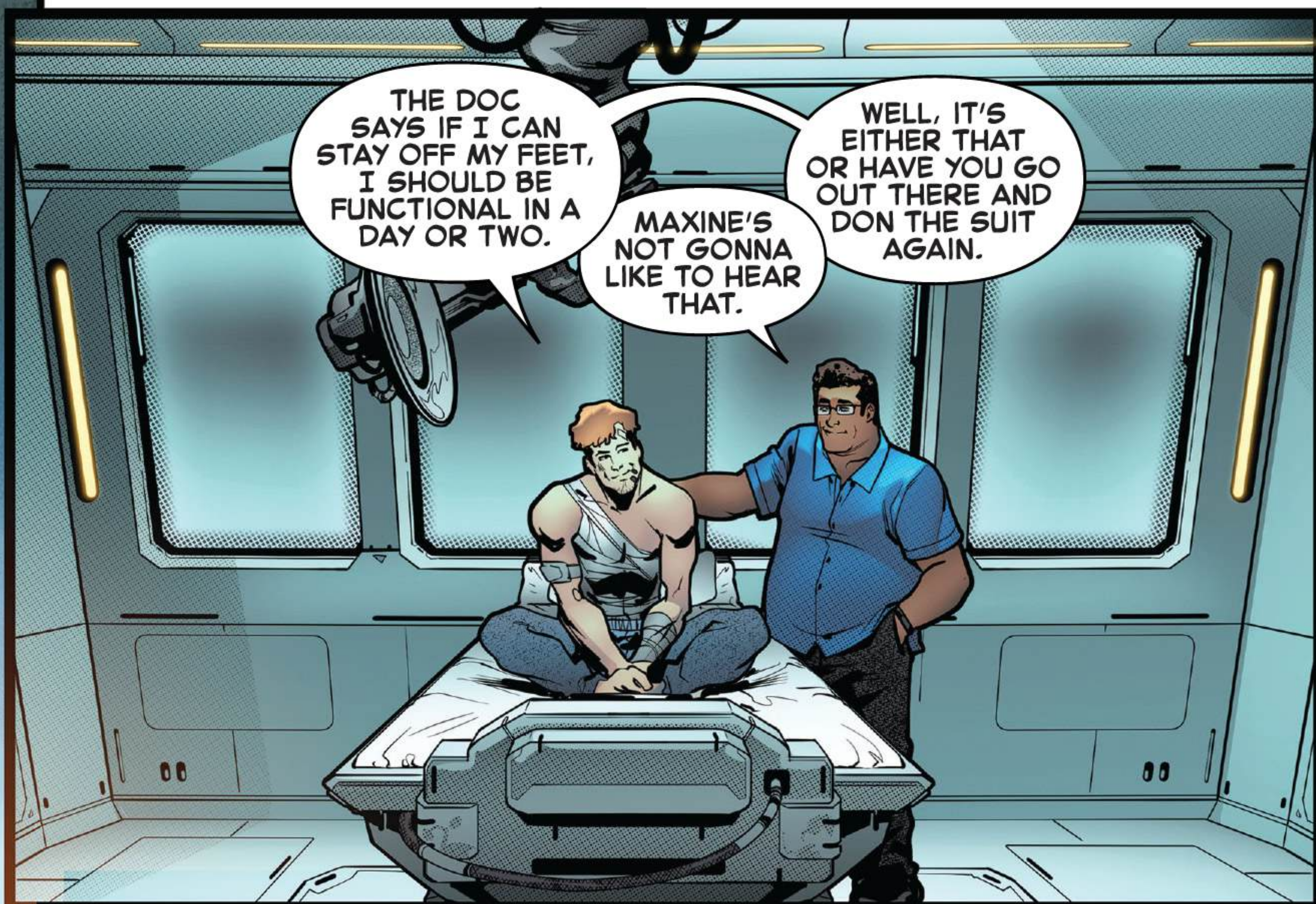
NOT TOO
BAD.



THE DOC
SAYS IF I CAN
STAY OFF MY FEET,
I SHOULD BE
FUNCTIONAL IN A
DAY OR TWO.

MAXINE'S
NOT GONNA
LIKE TO HEAR
THAT.

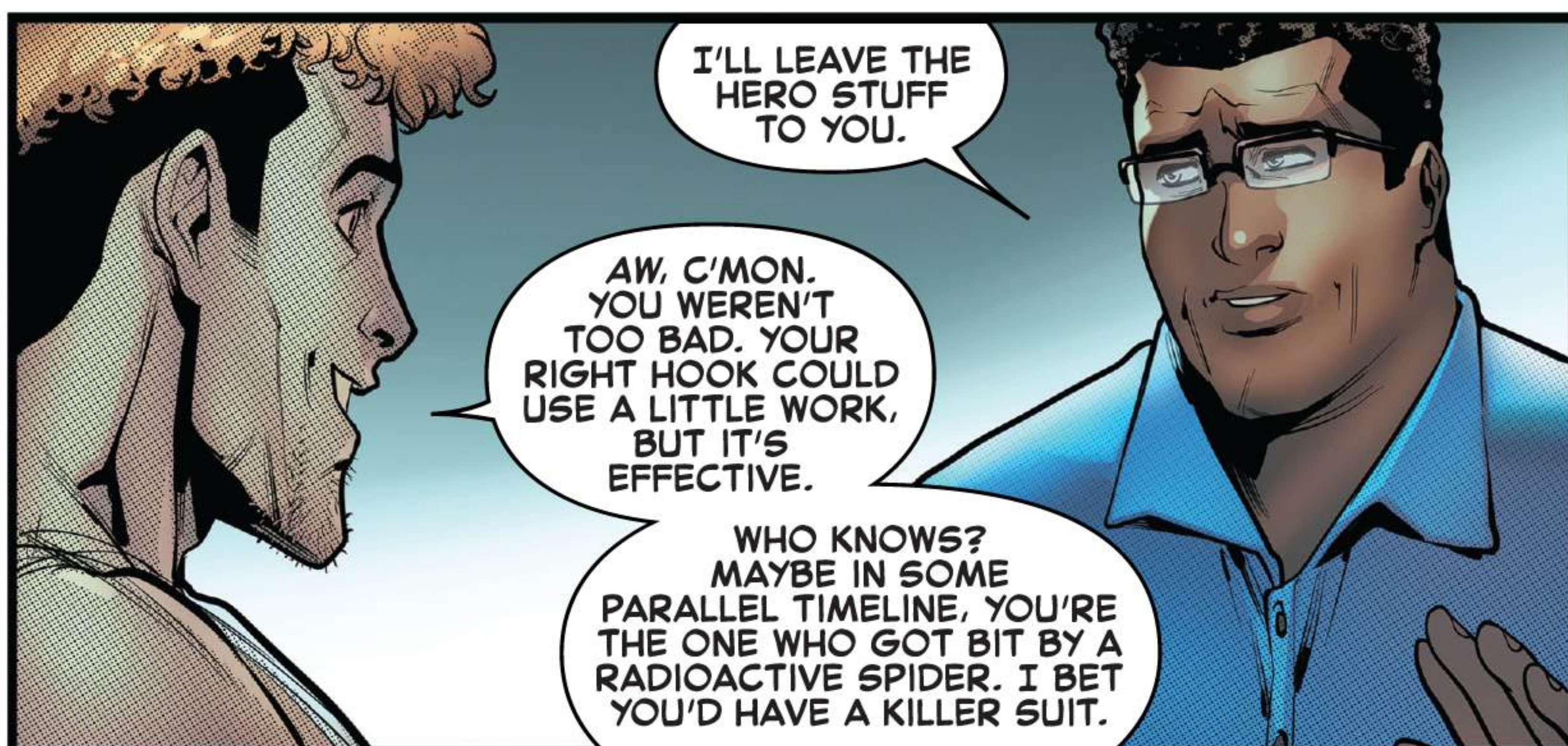
WELL, IT'S
EITHER THAT
OR HAVE YOU GO
OUT THERE AND
DON THE SUIT
AGAIN.



I'LL LEAVE THE
HERO STUFF
TO YOU.

AW, C'MON.
YOU WEREN'T
TOO BAD. YOUR
RIGHT HOOK COULD
USE A LITTLE WORK,
BUT IT'S
EFFECTIVE.

WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE IN SOME
PARALLEL TIMELINE, YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO GOT BIT BY A
RADIOACTIVE SPIDER. I BET
YOU'D HAVE A KILLER SUIT.



HEY,
BEN?

THANKS.

COMING
TO SAVE
ME--

KNOWING
THE CONDITION
YOU WERE
IN...

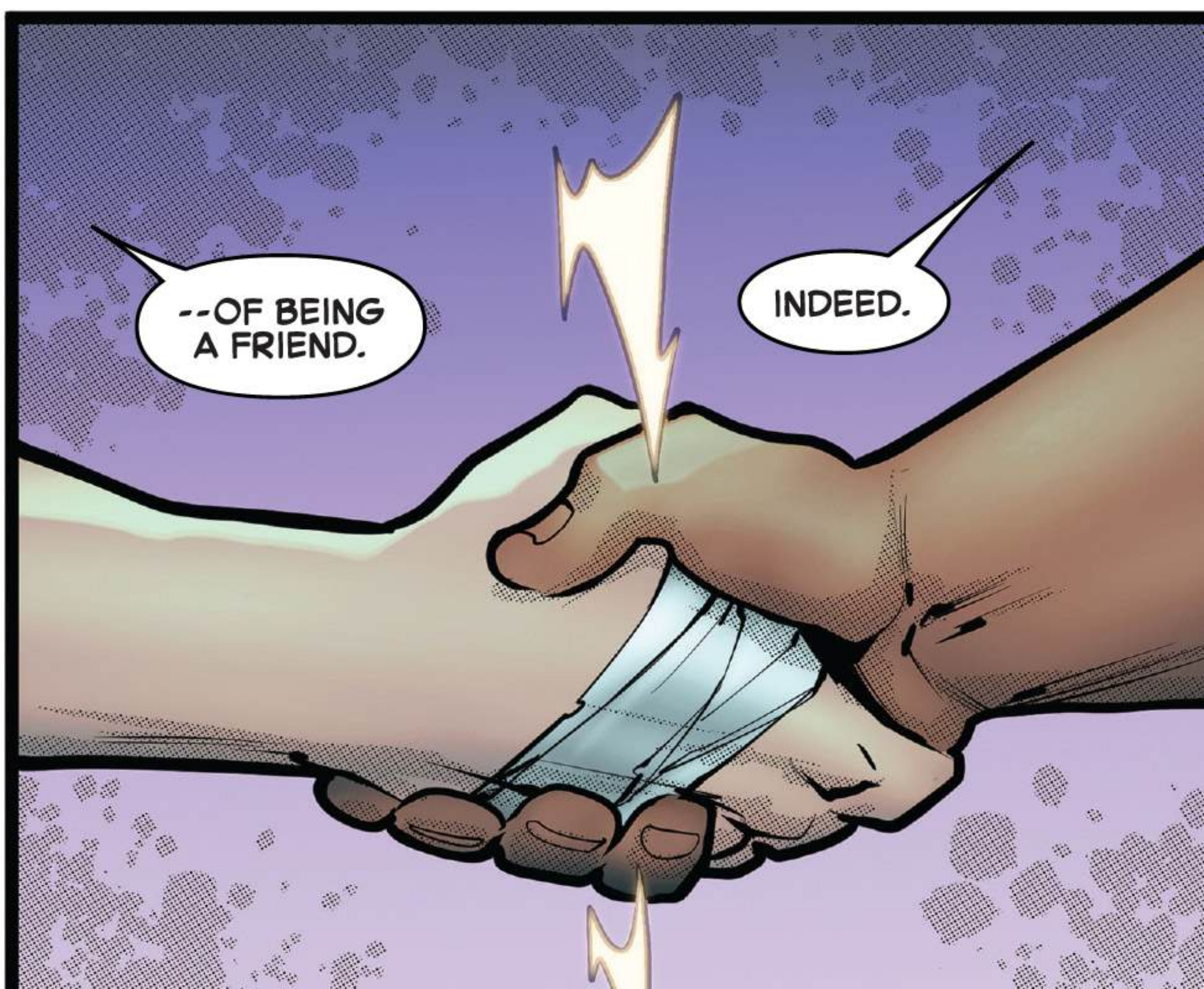


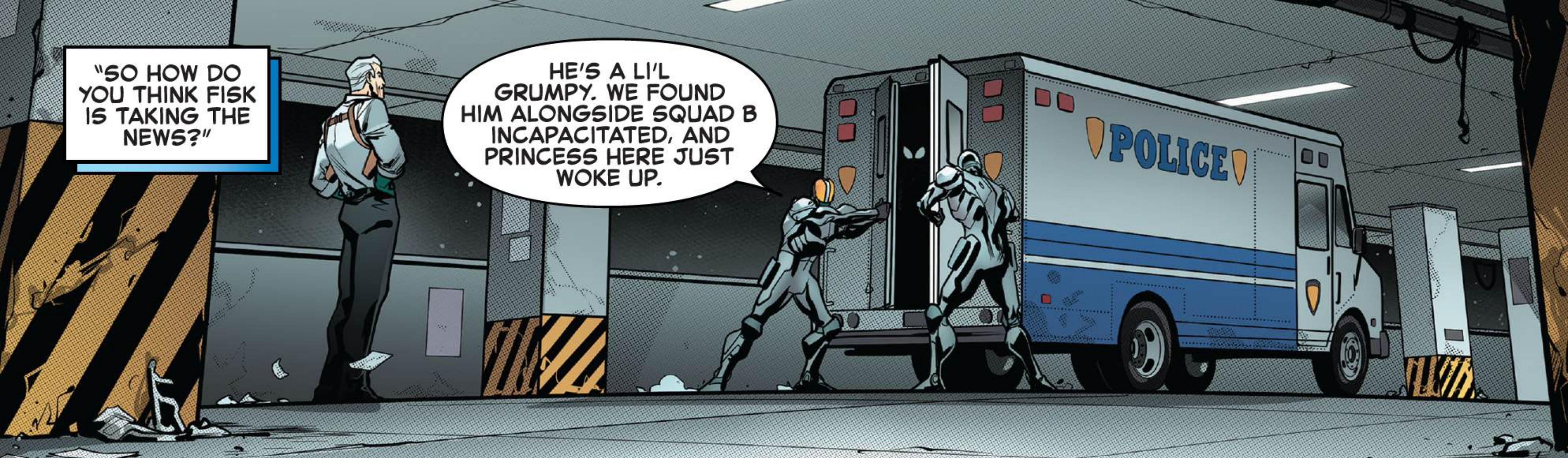
AW, SHUCKS,
MARCUS. IT WAS
NOTHING. IT'S JUST
SOMETHING THAT
COMES WITH THE
JOB--



--OF BEING
A FRIEND.

INDEED.





"SO HOW DO YOU THINK FISK IS TAKING THE NEWS?"

HE'S A LI'L GRUMPY. WE FOUND HIM ALONGSIDE SQUAD B INCAPACITATED, AND PRINCESS HERE JUST WOKE UP.



HMMMRPHH!

"YOU MEAN THE FACT THAT THE KINGPIN ALMOST HAD SPIDER-MAN IN HIS CLUTCHES...?"

"I'D SAY HE'S PROBABLY ABOUT TO LAY OFF EVERY POLICE OFFICER IN THE CITY."



GOOD WORK, BOYS. MAYOR FISK IS GONNA BE A VERY HAPPY MAN TODAY.

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THE PAY RAISE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BAG ME.

BOY, OH, BOY.

MMRPH! HMMMRHH!

WHAT'S THE MATTER? NO MORE CORNY JOKES? YOU MUST BE OUTTA MATERIAL.



LET'S GET THIS MASK OFF, &%\$#. THIS TIME YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME YOUR NAME, OR I'LL BEAT YOU TILL YOU'RE SCREAMING YOUR GRANDMA'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.

"REALLY? HUH.

"WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?"



"MMM, I DON'T KNOW--

"--CALL IT FORESIGHT."

HERE'S Johnny!

THE END.

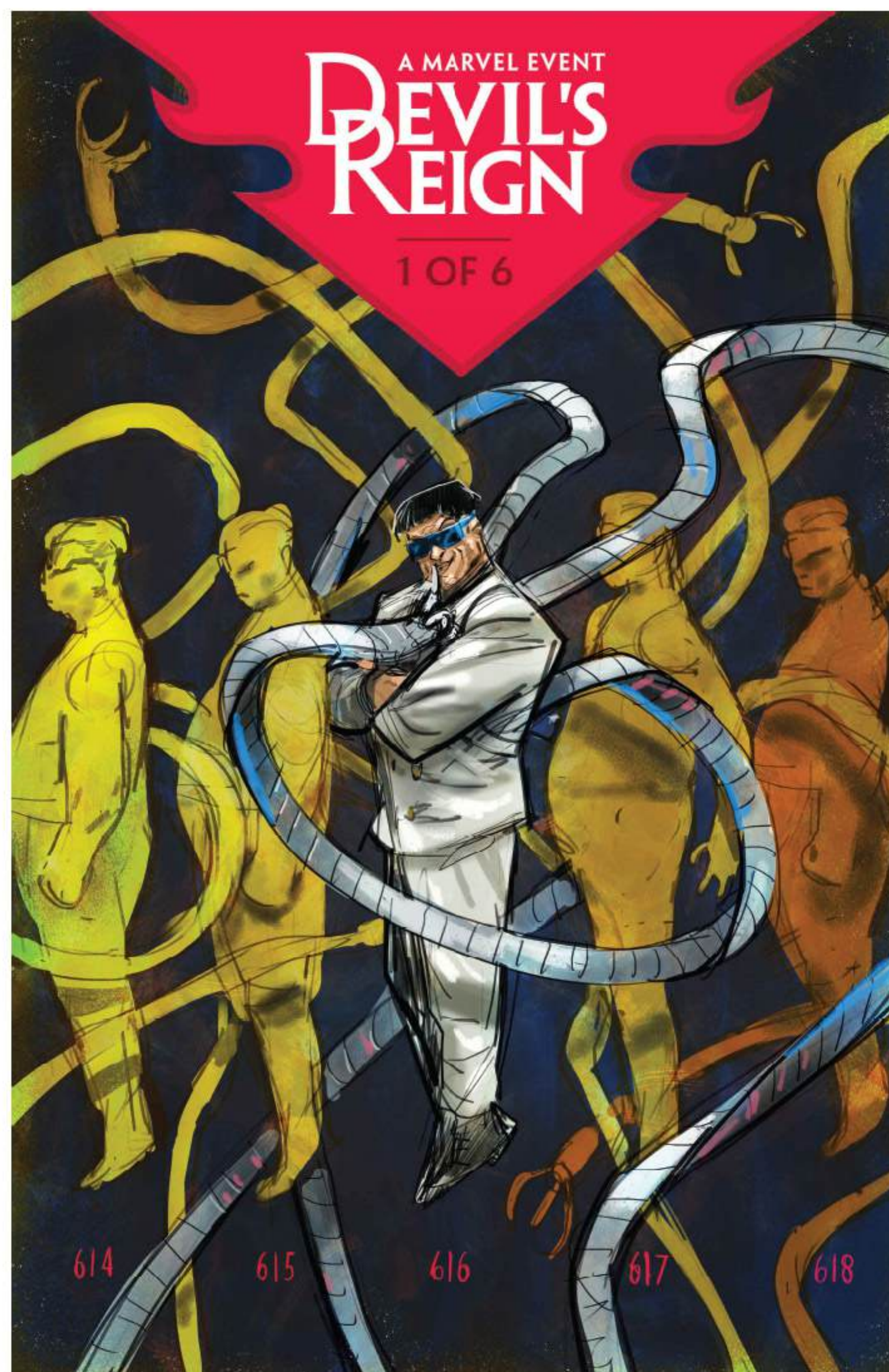


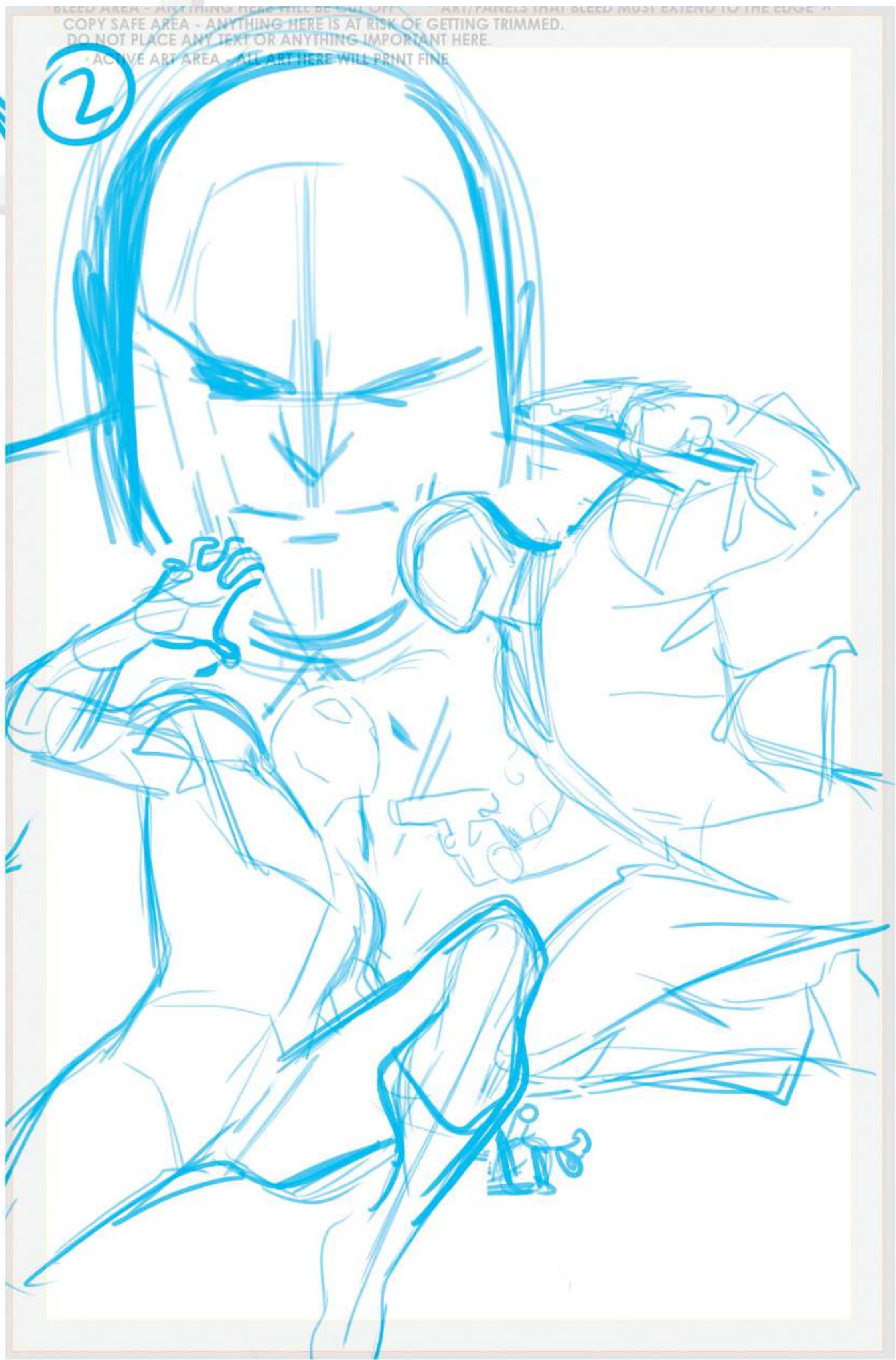
DEVIL'S REIGN: SUPERIOR FOUR #1 VARIANT BY **DIKE RUAN** & **MATTHEW WILSON**



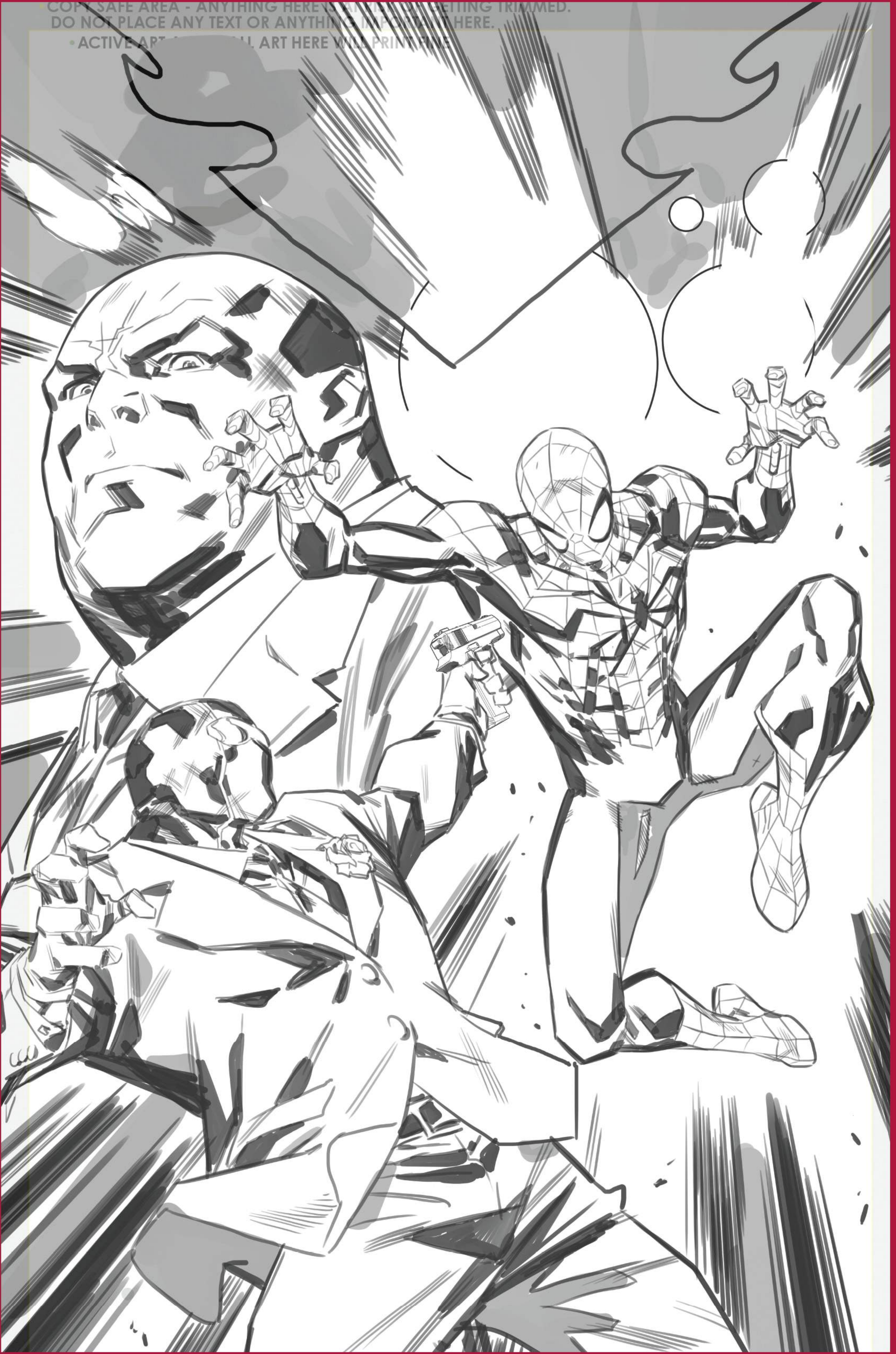


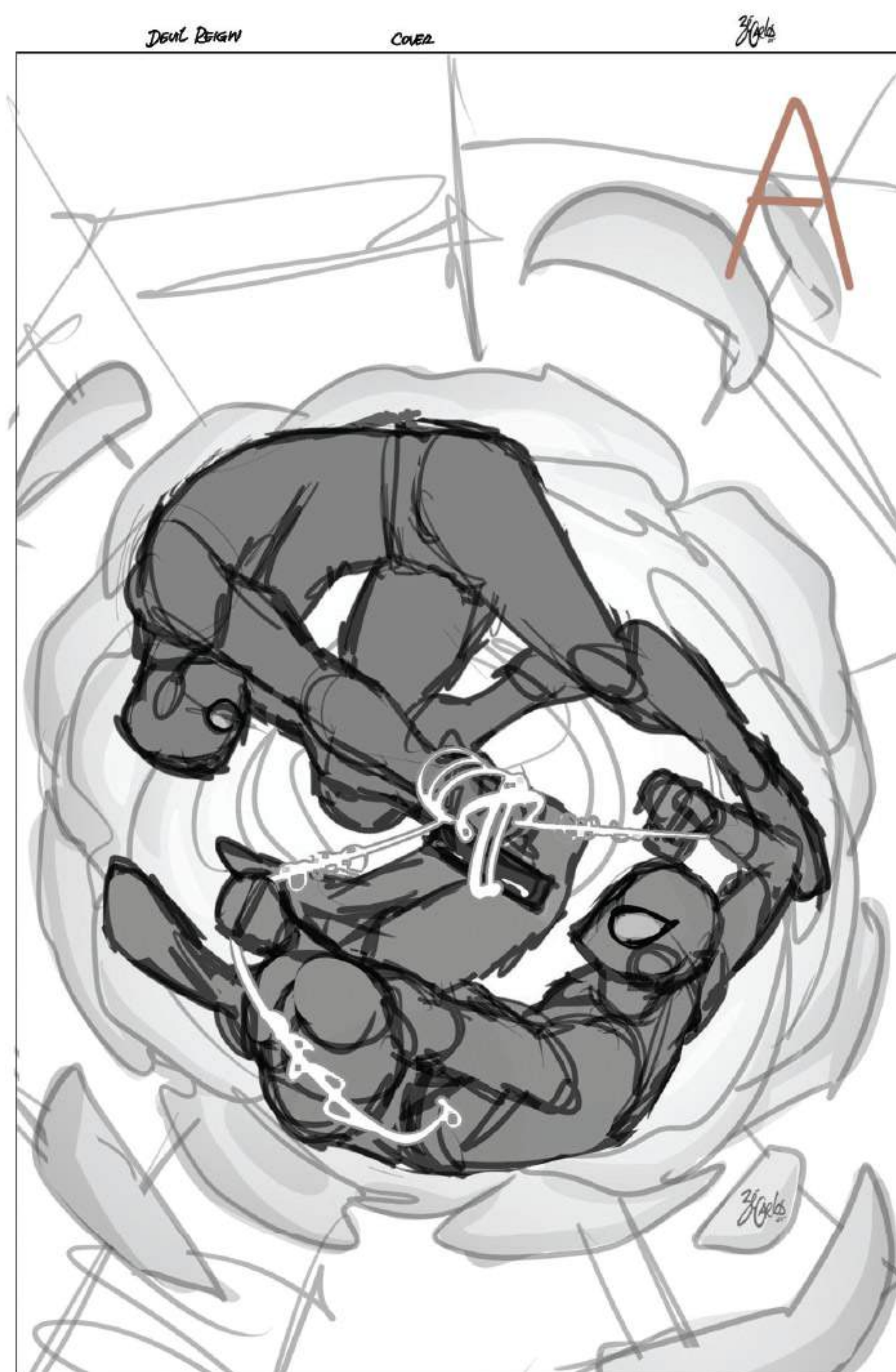






COPY SAFE AREA - ANYTHING HERE'S GOING TO GETTING TRIMMED.
DO NOT PLACE ANY TEXT OR ANYTHING IMPORTANT HERE.
• ACTIVE ART - ALL ART HERE WILL PRINT FINE





DEVIL'S REIGN

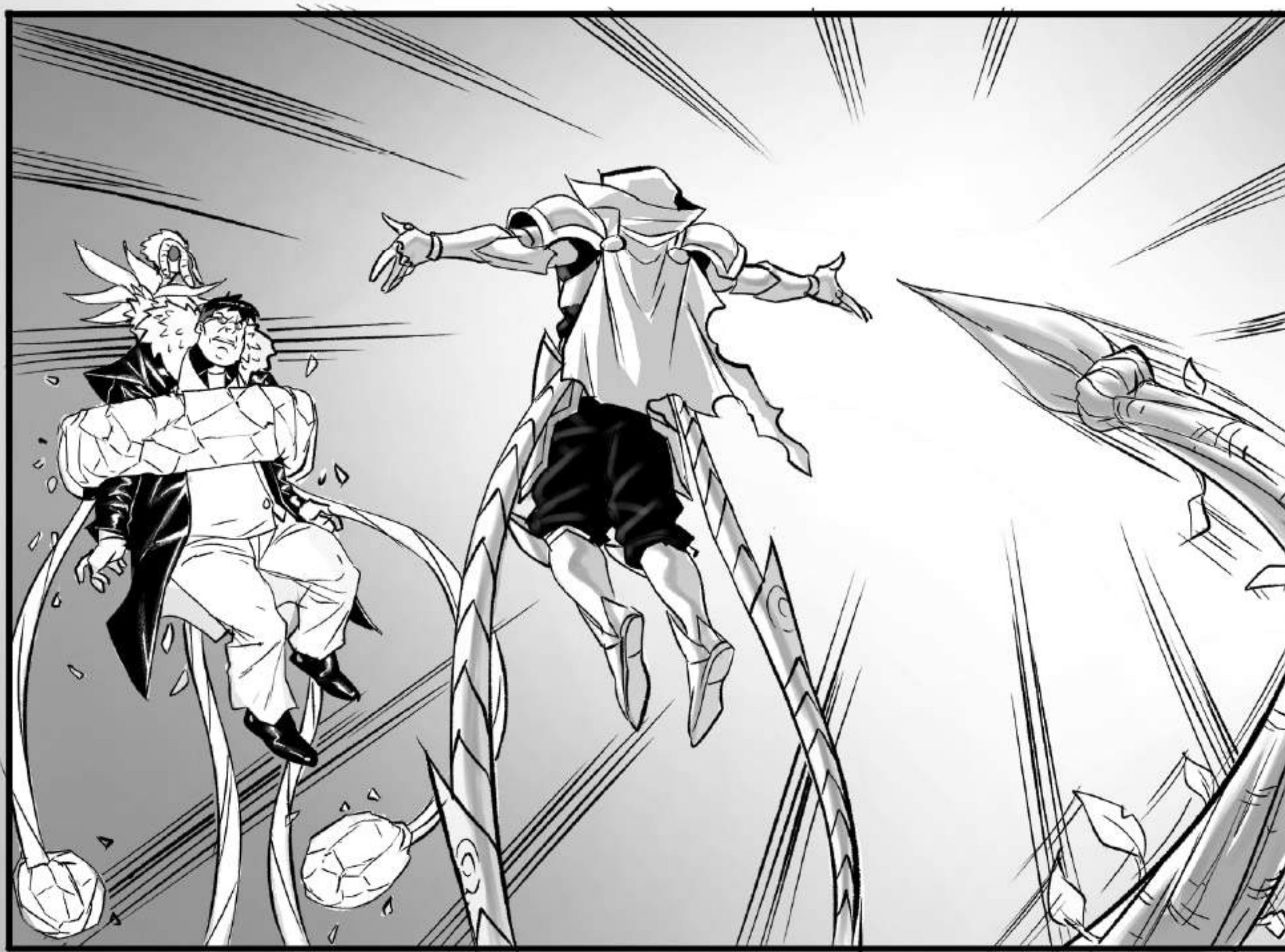
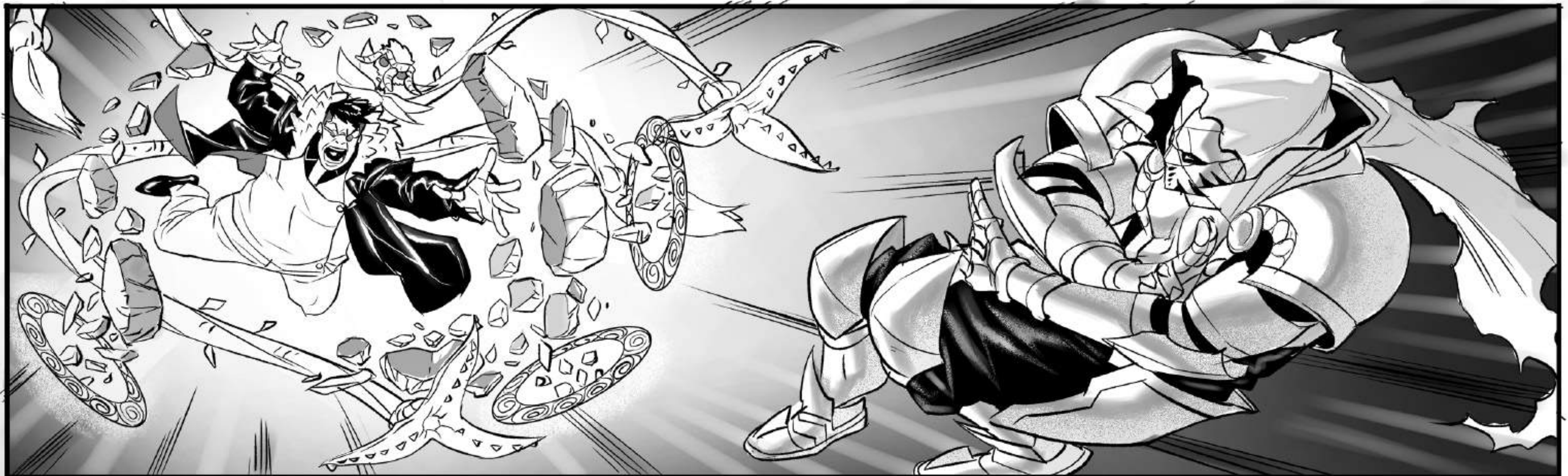
COVER

Zé Carlos
21













THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE NO MORE — LONG LIVE THE SUPERIOR FOUR!



“This is a highly
enjoyable read.”
— COMIC WATCH



“Revel in this series as
it knows an ego
can be a beautifully
fun thing.”
— AIPT



Otto Octavius has acquired a taste for the infinite. Empowered by **Wilson Fisk**, Doctor Octopus faces a tantalizing, unprecedented opportunity to scour the Multiverse, amassing an army of...himself! There is a fighting force to march on our reality, proving the supremacy of Octavius once and for all! But as these Doc Ock variants begin their assault, can they set aside their egos to work together — or will their megalomania unravel the fabric of the Multiverse? Meanwhile, the events of **DEVIL'S REIGN** have had a profound impact on Doctor Octopus' archfoe, **Spider-Man**. And now the newly returned **Rose** — desperate to prove he's a bigger bad than his father, the **Kingpin**, ever was — has the web-slinger in his crosshairs!

COLLECTING *DEVIL'S REIGN: SUPERIOR FOUR #1-3* AND *DEVIL'S REIGN: SPIDER-MAN* — BY ZAC THOMPSON, ANTHONY PIPER, DAVIDE TINTO, ZÉ CARLOS, MATT MILLA AND ERICK ARCINIEGA.

